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NO. 18
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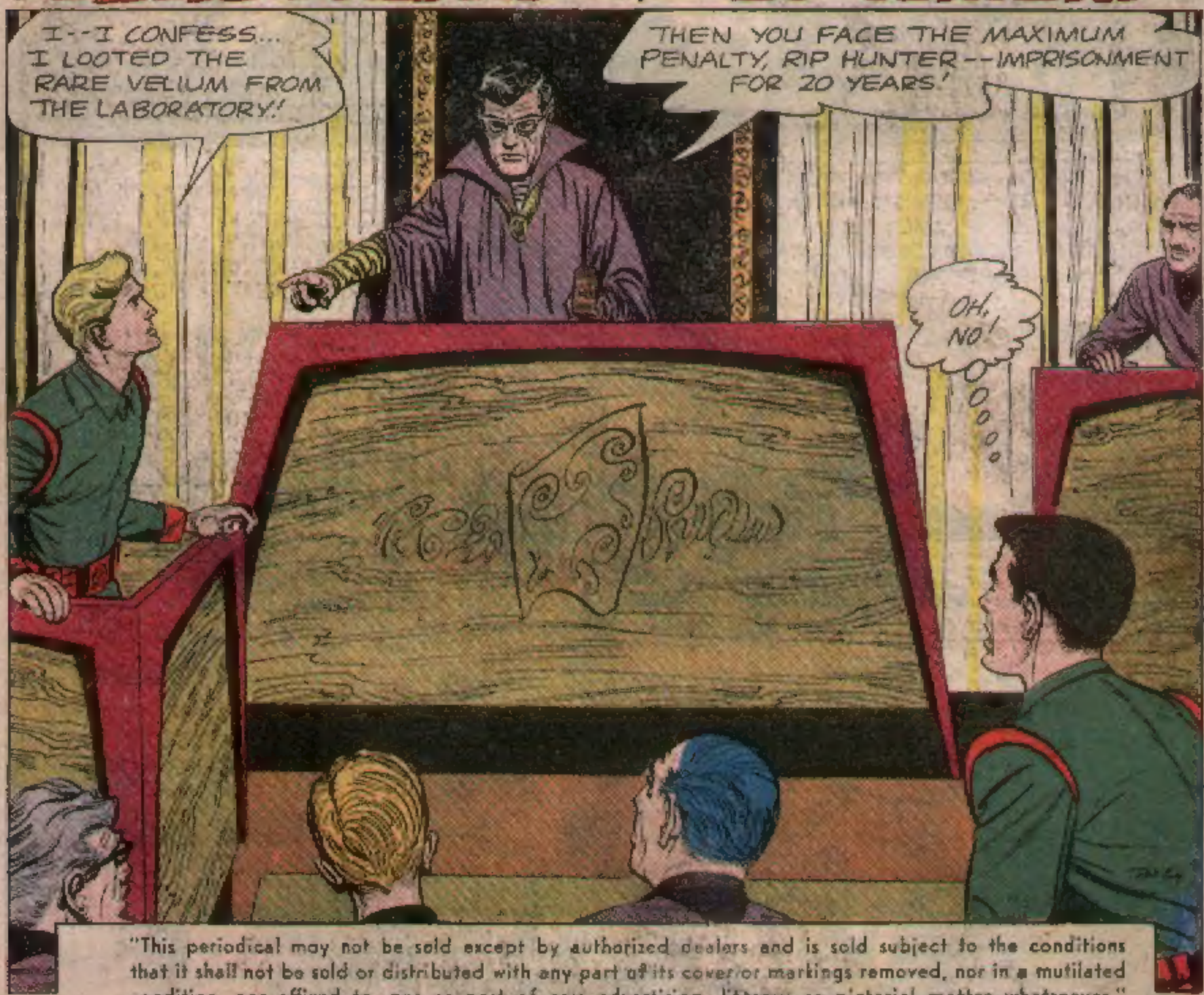
12¢
Rip Hunter...
TIME MASTER
A DINOSAUR-- IN THE YEAR 2550-- SMASHING OUR TIME SPHERE TO SMITHEREENS!

Rip Hunter... TIME MASTER

CHAPTER 1

FOR A CRIME COMMITTED IN ANOTHER STATE OR FRIENDLY NATION, THE WRONGDOER MAY BE EXTRADITED TO STAND TRIAL! BUT SUPPOSE THE WRONGDOER COMMITS HIS CRIME IN ANOTHER **ERA?** CAN HE BE EXTRADITED TO ANOTHER **PERIOD OF TIME?** A FANCIFUL NOTION, PERHAPS, BUT THIS IS PRECISELY WHAT HAPPENS WHEN RIP HUNTER, THE FAMED **TIME MASTER,** BECOMES...

PUBLIC ENEMY--of the 26th CENTURY



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A SECRET GOVERNMENT ROOM IN WASHINGTON. HERE, RIP HUNTER AND HIS FELLOW TIME TRAVELERS ARRIVE AFTER AN URGENT SUMMONS...

WELL, MR. SECRETARY, I SUPPOSE YOU PEOPLE WANT US TO MAKE ANOTHER TIME TRIP FOR YOU!

THIS TIME, MR. HUNTER, WE'RE HOPING YOU **WON'T** HAVE TO GO! PLEASE FOLLOW ME!

SHORTLY, THE TIME-TEAM GAPES IN AWE AT A FANTASTIC PHENOMENON...

YES--**HE** IS THE ONE WHO BROKE INTO MY LABORATORY AND STOLE EVERY OUNCE OF VELIUM WE POSSESSED!

WHAT--? WHO IS HE? AND WHERE'S HIS IMAGE COMING FROM?

HE IS PROFESSOR HAZZARD, RIP--COMING TO US VIA A PROJECTION FROM THE YEAR 2550! AND YOU HEARD HIS ACCUSATION!

YES, BUT IT'S ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS! WHY, I--I...

SUDDENLY, A SWIFT CHANGE COMES OVER THE **TIME MASTER**--AND, TO THE AMAZEMENT OF HIS COMPANIONS...

OH, WHAT'S THE USE? I--I MAY AS WELL ADMIT IT! I **DID** STEAL THE STUFF!

RIP! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? IT--IT CAN'T BE TRUE!

"BUT IT **IS** TRUE, BONNIE! SOME WEEKS AGO, I TOOK THE **TIME SPHERE** OUT ON AN EXPLORING TRIP--AND, WHEN I REACHED THE YEAR 2550..."

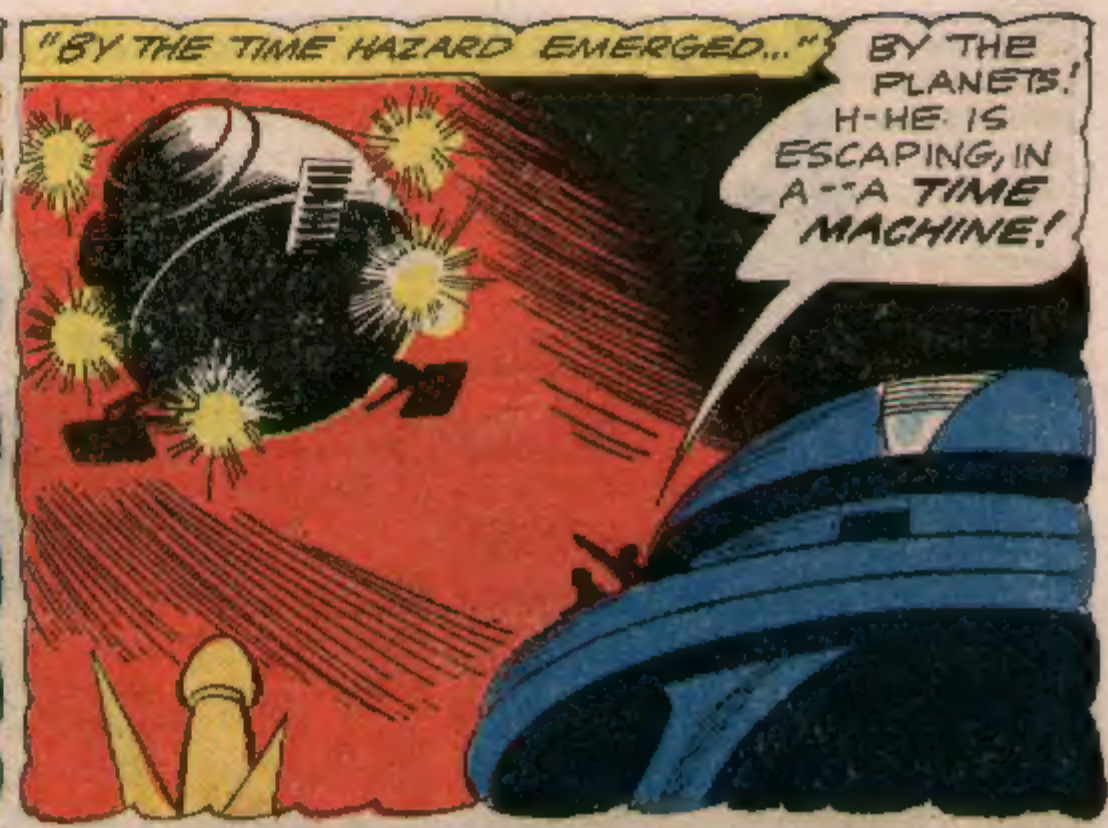
HMM... THAT LABORATORY IS GUARDED LIKE A FORTRESS! THEY MUST BE WORKING ON SOME SUPER-SECRET STUFF IN THERE!

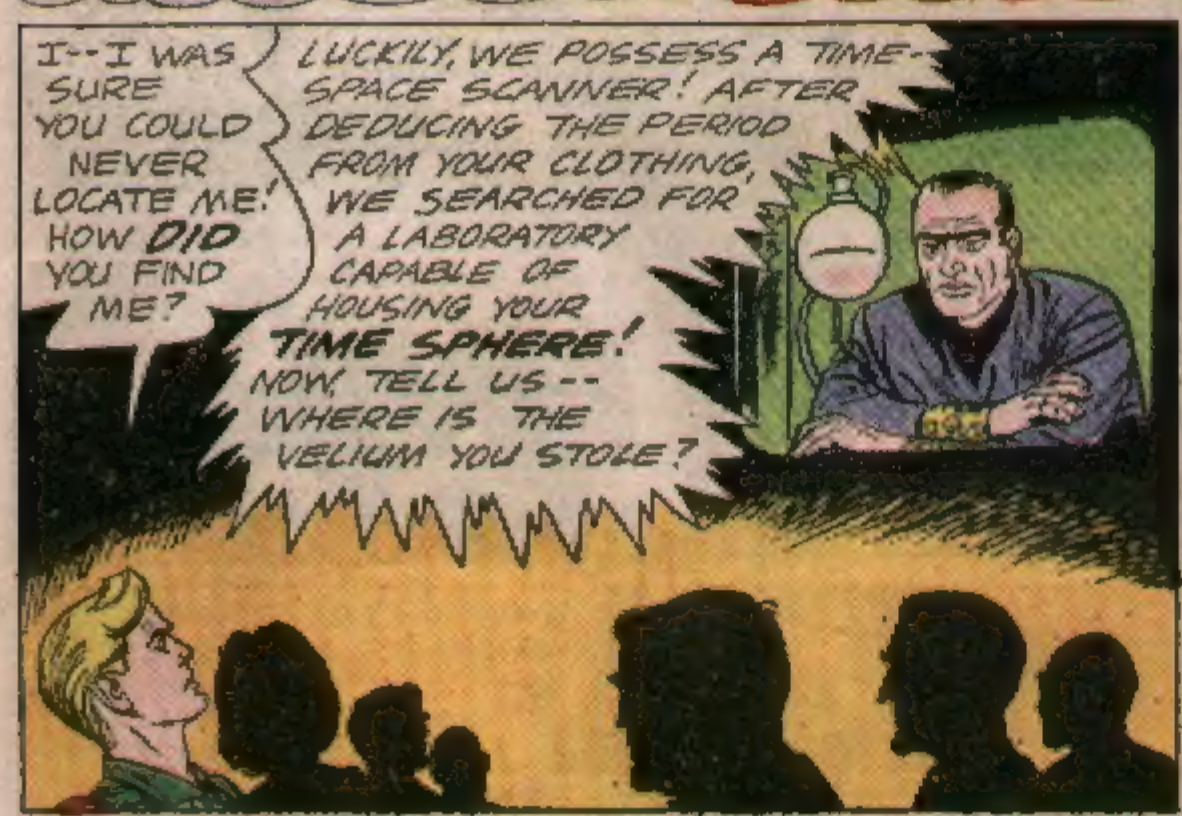
"I MATERIALIZED THE SPHERE **INSIDE** THE WALLS--AND SOON..."

JUST THINK, JOAKS... THIS 10-OUNCE CHUNK OF VELIUM IS THE ONLY EXISTING SPECIMEN IN THE WHOLE WORLD! WHAT WONDERFUL EXPERIMENTS WE SHALL SOON BE CONDUCTING!

AMAZING!

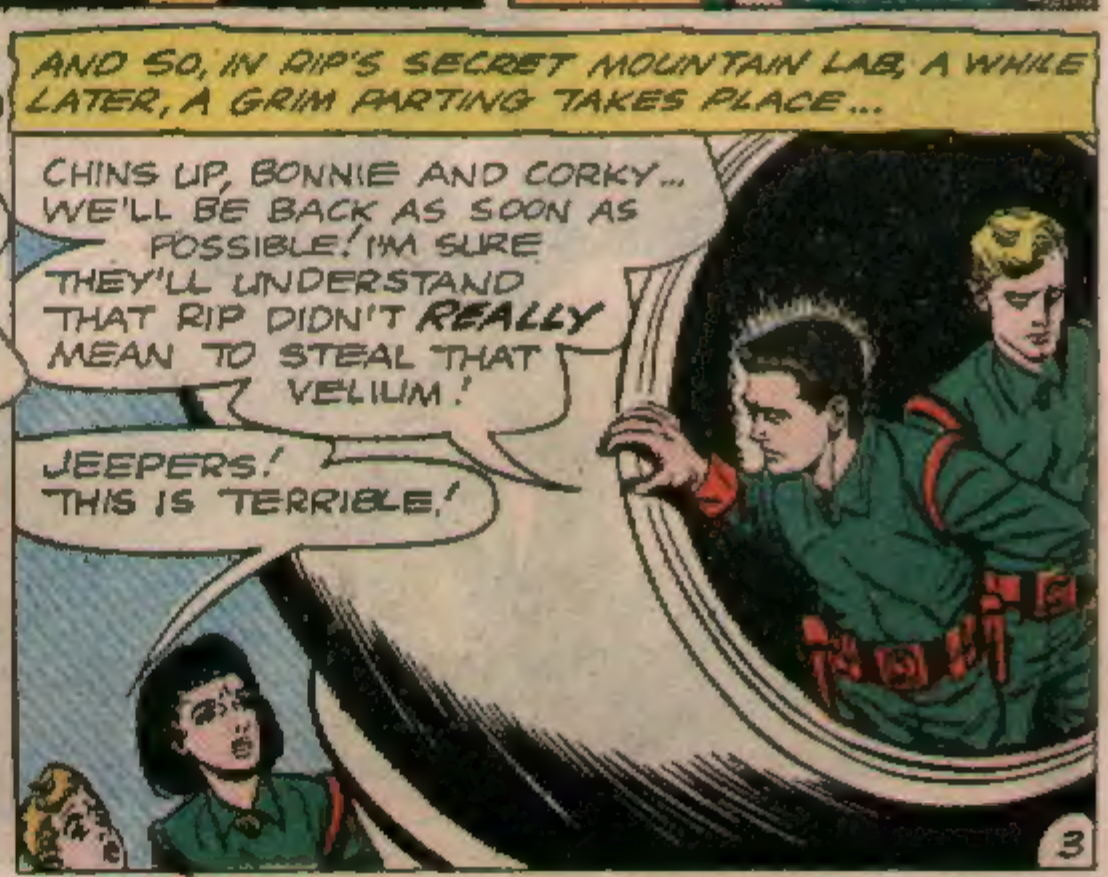
"HOW CAN I EXPLAIN THE MADNESS THAT SEIZED ME NEXT? I-- I WAITED FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT, THEN..."
PUT THAT BACK, YOU FOOL! YOU CANNOT HOPE TO ESCAPE FROM HERE!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!


"BY THE TIME HAZARD EMERGED..."
BY THE PLANETS! H-HE IS ESCAPING, IN A--A TIME MACHINE!

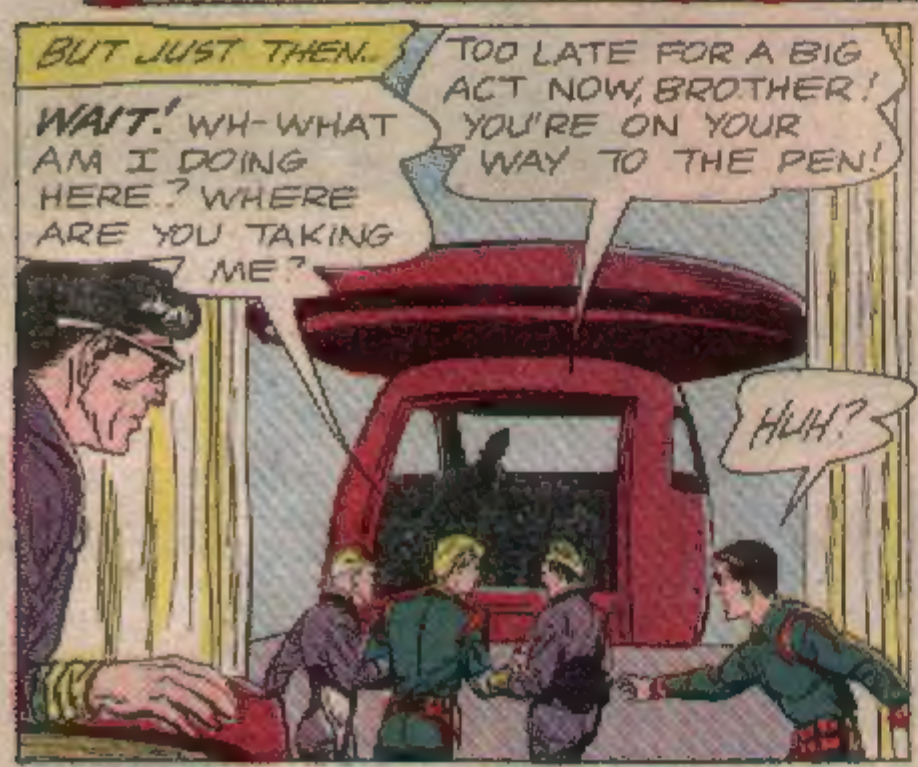

I--I WAS SURE YOU COULD NEVER LOCATE ME! HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
LUCKILY, WE POSSESS A TIME-SPACE SCANNER! AFTER DEDUCING THE PERIOD FROM YOUR CLOTHING, WE SEARCHED FOR A LABORATORY CAPABLE OF HOUSING YOUR TIME SPHERE! NOW, TELL US -- WHERE IS THE VELIUM YOU STOLE?

I--I CAN'T REMEMBER! I EITHER LOST OR MISLAID IT... AND THAT'S THE TRUTH!
I AM SHOCKED BY ALL THIS, HUNTER! YOU REALIZE THERE IS ONLY ONE HONORABLE COURSE YOU CAN TAKE NOW?

YES... I MUST TRAVEL TO THE YEAR 2550-- AND STAND TRIAL FOR MY CRIME! I'M READY!
I'M GOING WITH YOU, RIP! AFTER ALL, SOMEONE HAS TO MAKE SURE YOU GET A FAIR SHAKE!


AND SO, IN RIP'S SECRET MOUNTAIN LAB, A WHILE LATER, A GRIM PARTING TAKES PLACE...
CHINS UP, BONNIE AND CORKY... WE'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! I'M SURE THEY'LL UNDERSTAND THAT RIP DIDN'T REALLY MEAN TO STEAL THAT VELIUM!
JEEPERS! THIS IS TERRIBLE!

BUT, IN THE HALL OF JUSTICE, IN THE YEAR 2550, THE TRIAL IS SWIFT, THE VERDICT STERN..
YOU HAVE BEEN FOUND GUILTY--AND OWING TO THE FACT THAT THE OBJECT YOU STOLE IS STILL MISSING, YOU WILL REMAIN IN PRISON FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS!
OH, NO!
20 YEARS! IS THIS THE END OF THE TIME MASTER'S CAREER? IT CERTAINLY SEEMS SO!


BUT JUST THEN.
WAIT! WH-WHAT AM I DOING HERE? WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
TOO LATE FOR A BIG ACT NOW, BROTHER! YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY TO THE PEN!
HUH?

THERE'S SOME TERRIBLE MISTAKE! I HAVEN'T COMMITTED ANY CRIME! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE I AM!
ENOUGH OF YOUR STUPID ACTING! GET IN!

SUDDENLY, JEFF MAKES HIS MOVE...
OUT OF THE WAY, YOU TWO!
OOOF!

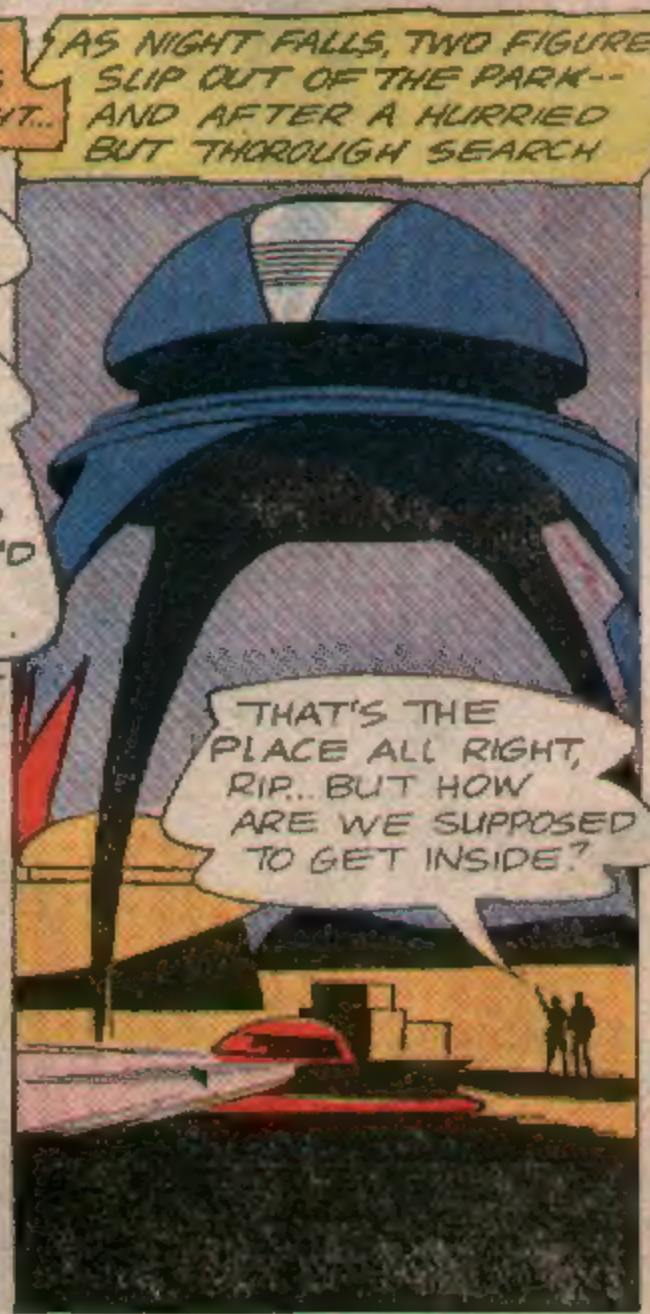
SWIFTLY, JEFF GRABS THE DRIVER'S RAY GUN...
TAKE OFF, PAL-- ON THE DOUBLE!

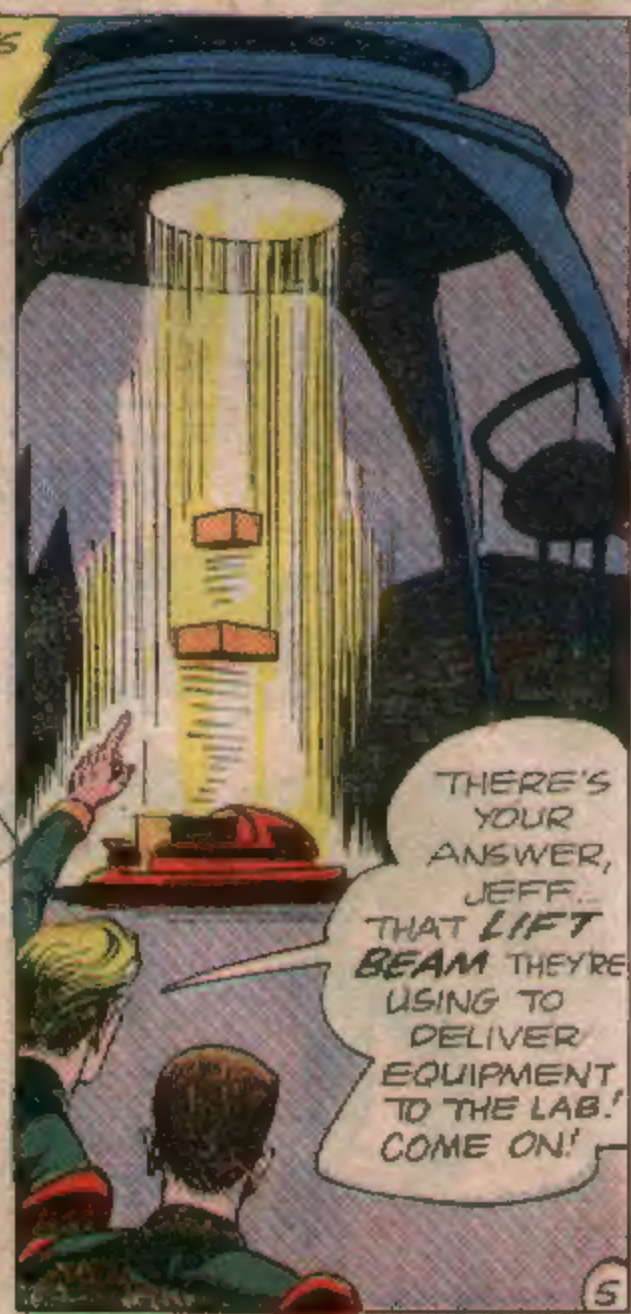
AS A POWERFUL WEAPON SPURTS...
STOP FIRING, YOU FOOL! OUR DRIVER'S IN THERE!

MEANWHILE...
LAND IN THE PARK, DRIVER--PRONTO! THE TIME SPHERE'S THERE, RIP.. WE'LL TAKE OFF BEFORE A GENERAL ALARM GOES OUT FOR YOU!

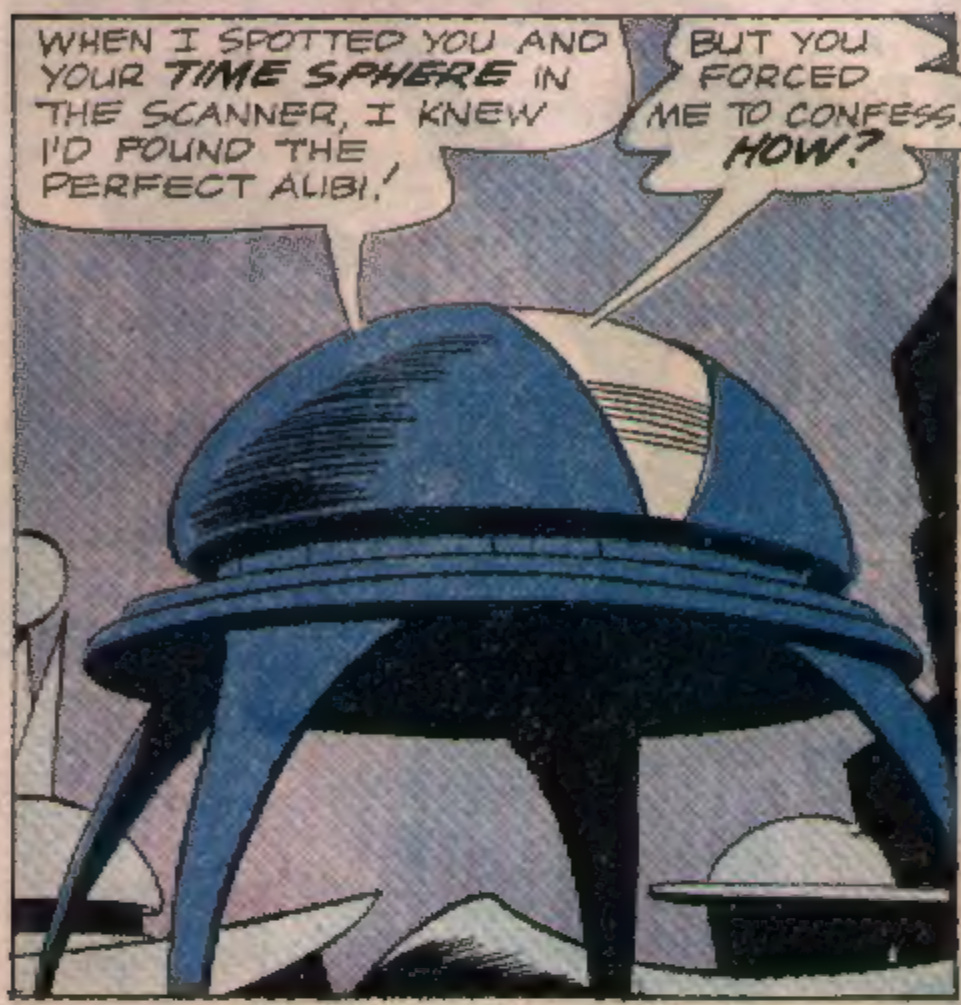
BUT SOON AFTER...
BAH!... I MIGHT'VE KNOWN THEY'D PUT A COUPLE OF GUARDS ON THE SPHERE! BUT WHY WORRY?... THERE ARE ONLY TWO OF 'EM! WE CAN HANDLE THEM!
NO, JEFF! I'M NOT LEAVING HERE TILL I CLEAR MYSELF! START TALKING! HOW'D I GET INTO THIS MESS? I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING!

AFTER JEFF RELATES THE STRANGE INCIDENTS LEADING TO THEIR PLIGHT...
HMM...APPARENTLY, SOME DEVICE WAS USED TO BRAINWASH ME! BUT-- WHY ME?
ONLY HAZZARD CAN TELL US THAT, RIP! HIS LAB SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD TO FIND--BUT WE'D BETTER HIDE AND WAIT TILL DARK!


AS NIGHT FALLS, TWO FIGURES SLIP OUT OF THE PARK-- AND AFTER A HURRIED BUT THOROUGH SEARCH
THAT'S THE PLACE ALL RIGHT, RIP.. BUT HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET INSIDE?

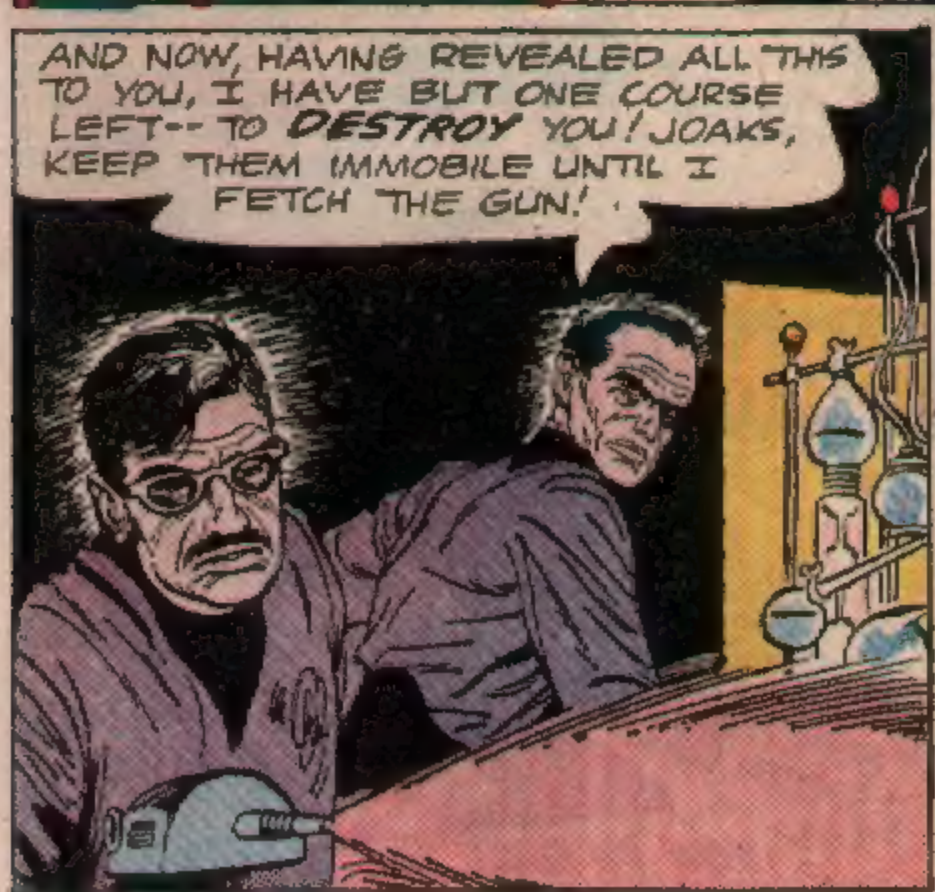

THERE'S YOUR ANSWER, JEFF.. THAT LIFT BEAM THEY'RE USING TO DELIVER EQUIPMENT TO THE LAB! COME ON!

STEALTHILY, THE TIME TRAVELERS CREEP FORWARD, UNTIL...
HANG ON, JEFF!
TENSE MOMENTS LATER...
WE'RE IN A KIND OF WAREHOUSE ROOM... THE LAB MUST BE NEXT DOOR! EASY DOES IT, JEFF -- I WANT TO CATCH THAT PROFESSOR BY SURPRISE!
BUT UNKNOWN TO THE DARING DUO OF THE PAST...
IT SEEMS WE HAVE UNINVITED VISITORS, JOAKS!
HA, HA! IF THEY ONLY KNEW THEY WERE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF A ONE-WAY TRANSPARENT WALL!
SHORTLY, AS RIP AND JEFF STUMBLE HEADLONG INTO THE TRAP...
RIP! I CAN'T MOVE A MUSCLE!
RIGHT... THE FORCE-RAY PARALYZES THOROUGHLY!
YOU FRAMED ME, HAZZARD... WHY?
HA, HA! I WANTED THE VELIUM FOR MY PERSONAL EXPERIMENTATION! BUT SINCE I WOULD BE INSTANTLY SUSPECTED, I NEEDED SOMEONE TO TAKE MY PLACE!
6

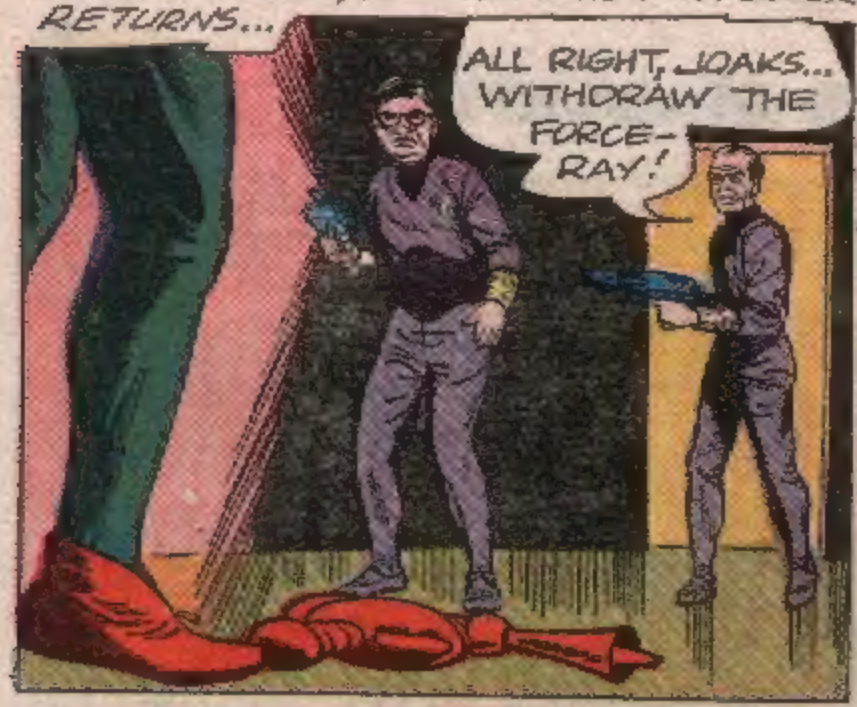

WHEN I SPOTTED YOU AND YOUR TIME SPHERE IN THE SCANNER, I KNEW I'D FOUND THE PERFECT ALIBI!
BUT YOU FORCED ME TO CONFESS! HOW?

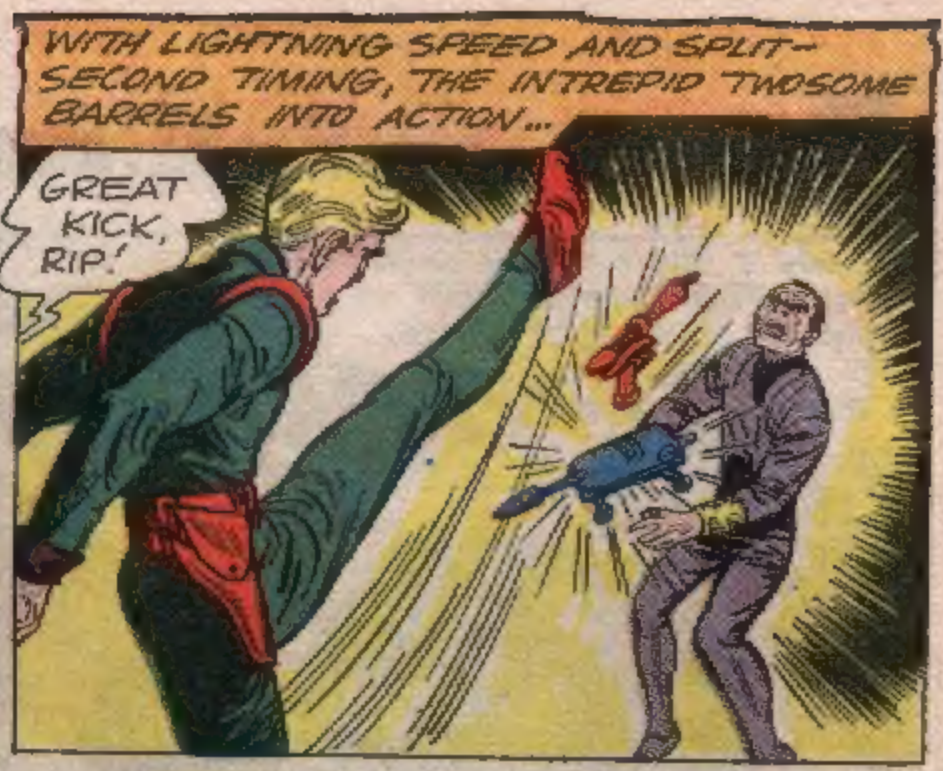
WITH THIS HANDY ELECTRICAL IMPULSE TRANSMITTER! A SINGLE SHOT REMAINS EFFECTIVE FOR DAYS!

THAT VELIUM MUST BE PRETTY VALUABLE FOR YOU TO HAVE GONE THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE TO STEAL IT, HAZZARD!
OH, IT IS, IT IS! YOU SEE, IT IS THE ONLY SUBSTANCE THAT CAN ACTIVATE MY EVOLUTION RAY!


AND NOW, HAVING REVEALED ALL THIS TO YOU, I HAVE BUT ONE COURSE LEFT-- TO DESTROY YOU! JOAKS, KEEP THEM IMMOBILE UNTIL I FETCH THE GUN!

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE DONE FOR, RIP!
MAYBE NOT, JEFF! HAZZARD JUST TOLD JOAKS TO KEEP US IMMOBILE "UNTIL" HE GETS THE GUN-- MEANING, HIS WEAPON CAN'T PENETRATE THE FORCE-RAY FIELD!





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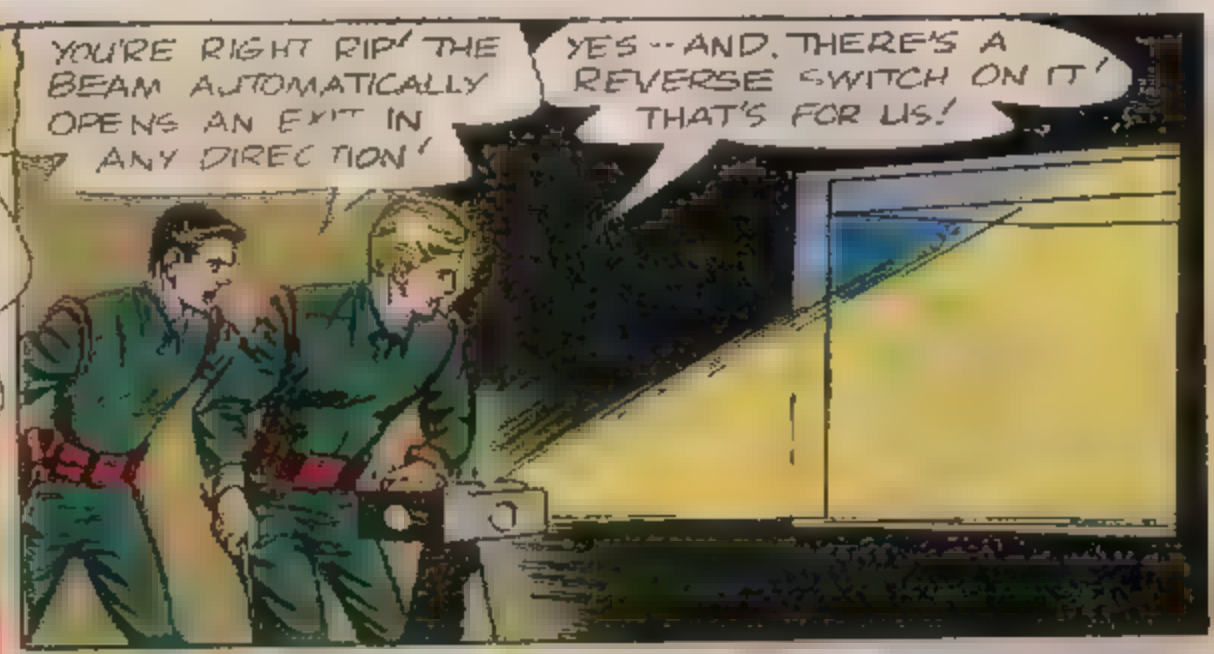
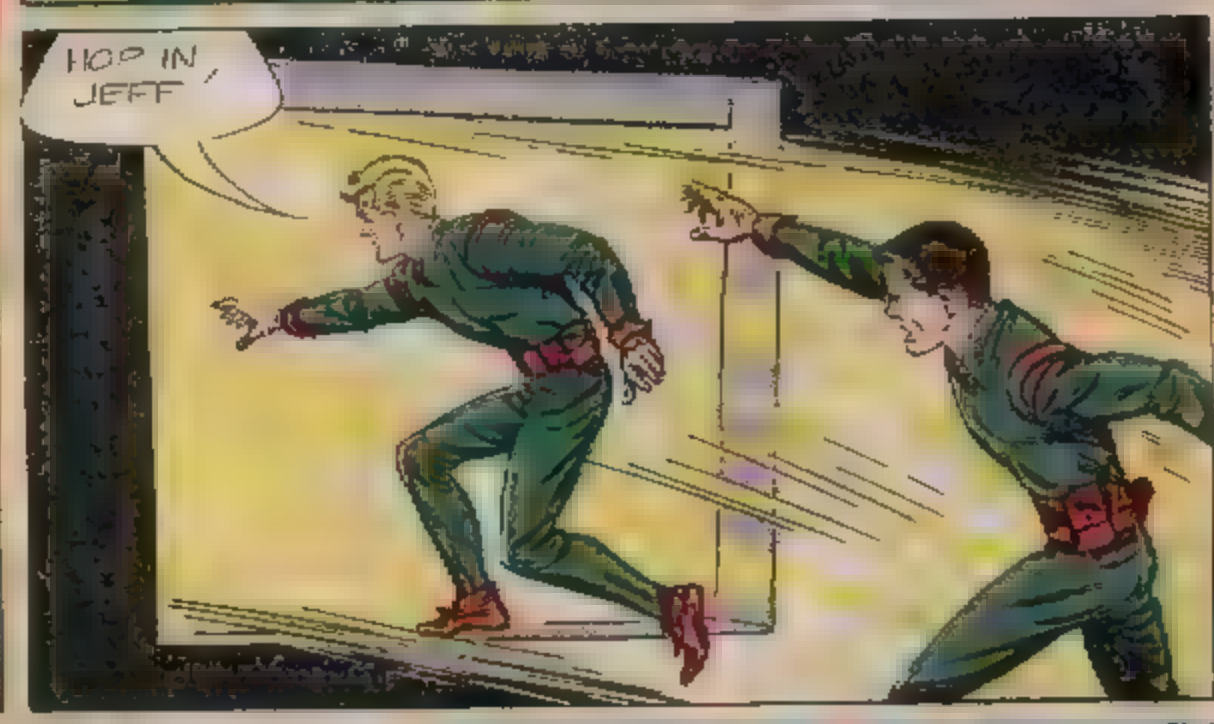
A BOOK-LENGTH SPECTACULAR!

NOW ON SALE

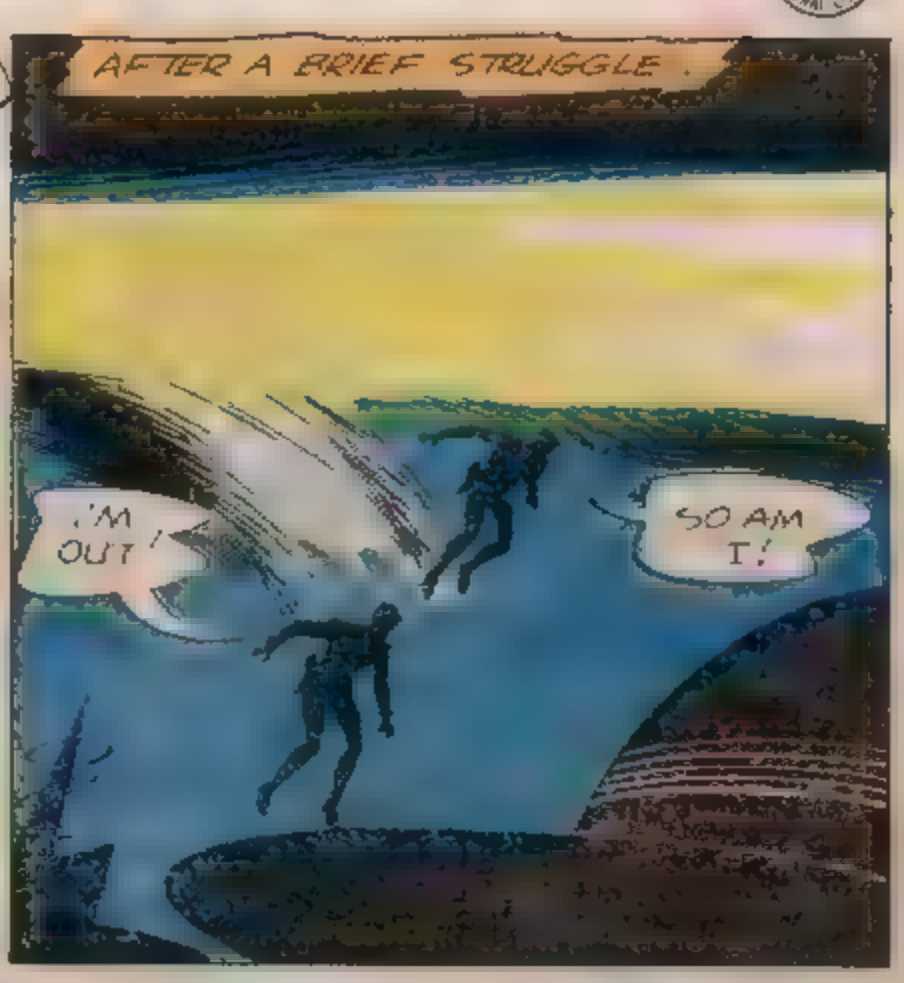
BATTLING AGAINST OVERWHELMING ODDS-- DESPERATELY DEFYING DANGER-- THE TIME MASTER AT LAST SUCCEEDS IN CLEARING HIS NAME, ONLY TO RUN INTO STILL GREATER MENACE FROM...
the DINOSAUR of 2550
CHAPTER 2
I HAVE NO CHOICE... IT'S THE ONLY CHANCE OF SUBDUING THIS TYRANNOSAURUS!
GREAT STARS! IS THAT FOOL TRYING TO GET HIMSELF KILLED?

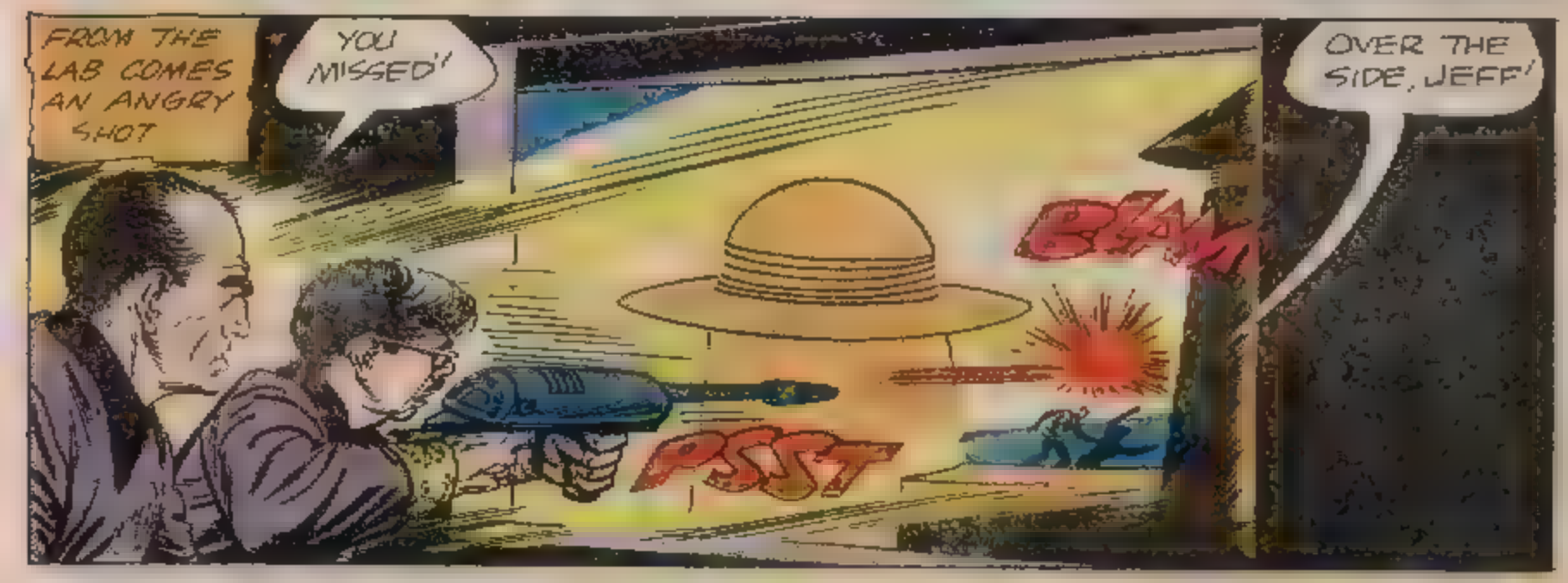
RIP HUNTER ... TIME MASTER

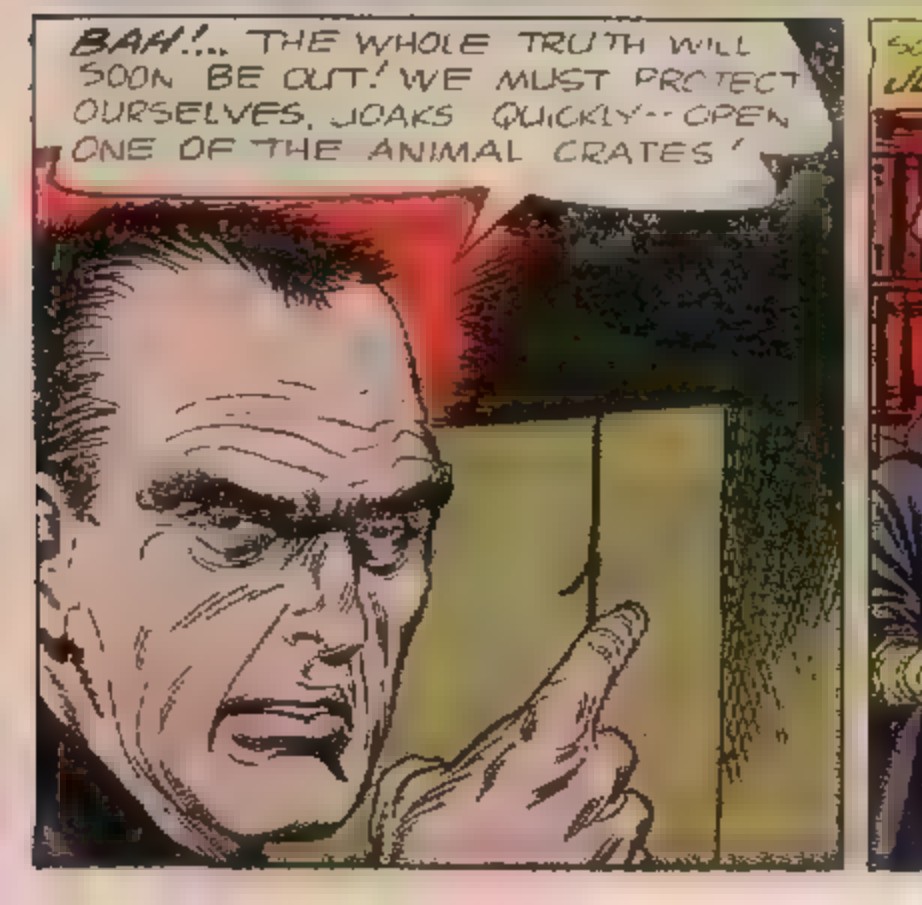


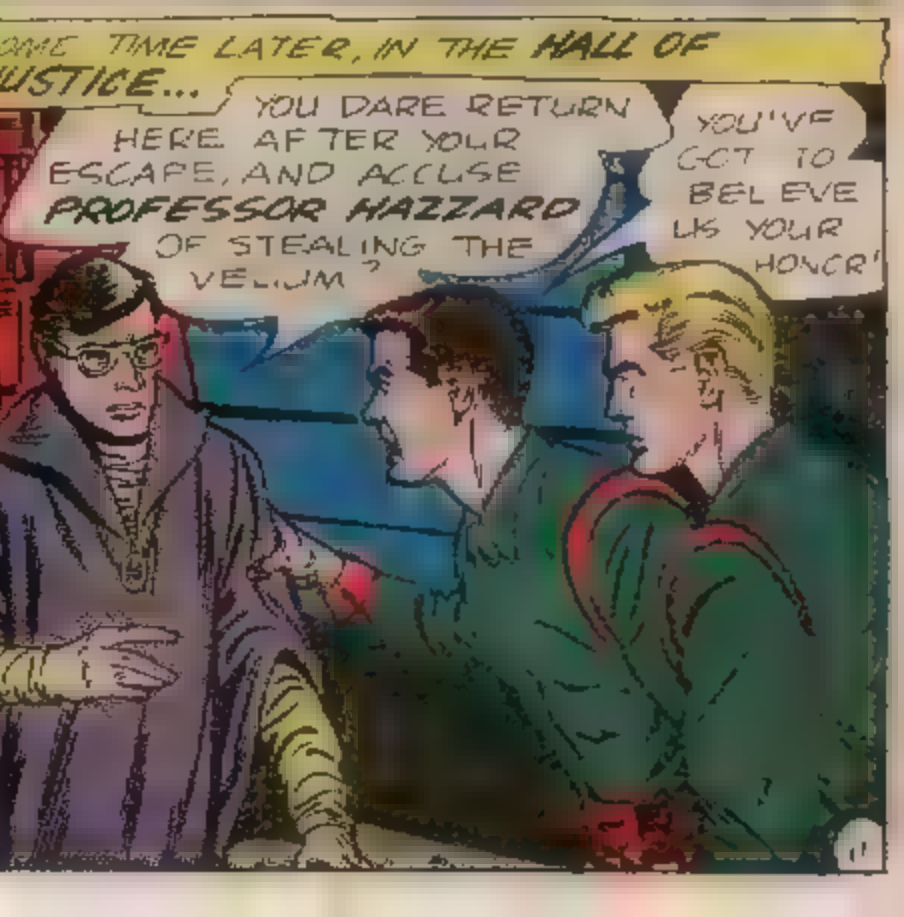


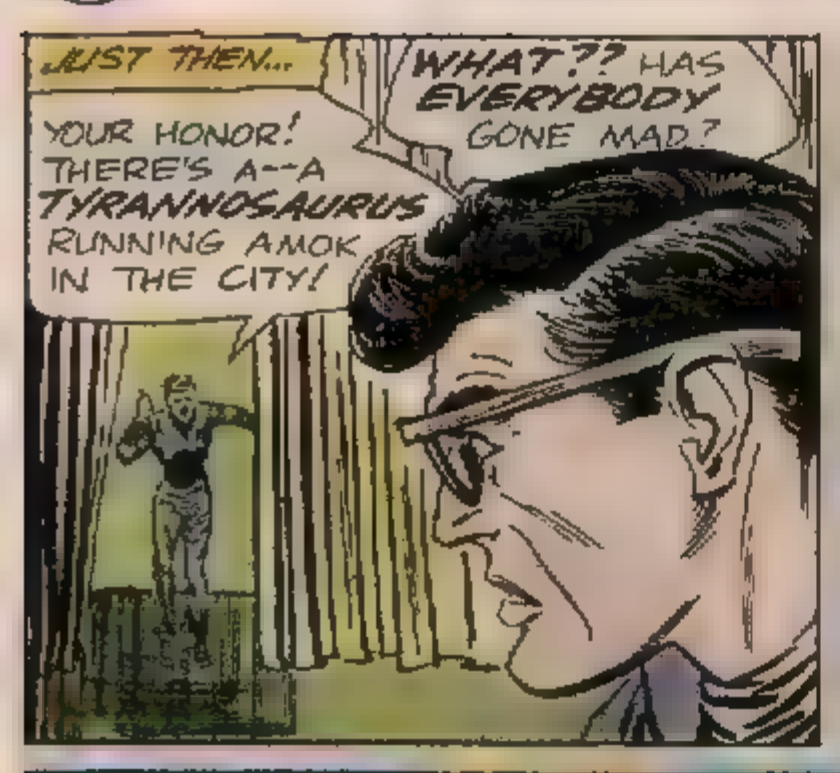
NEXT MOMENT..
SUFFERING CATS'. THIS IS LIKE A TREADMILL' WE RE BEING PULLED BACK'
TRY AND SQUEEZE OUT OF THIS THING, JEFF'

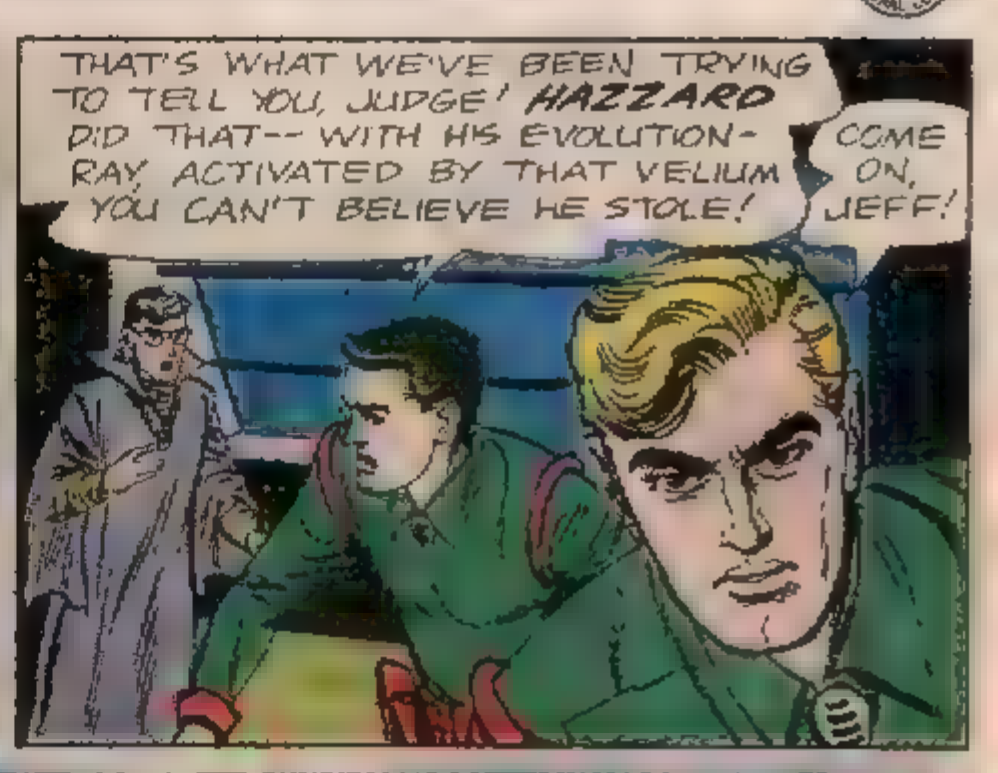

AFTER A BRIEF STRUGGLE.
I'M OUT'
SO AM I!


FROM THE LAB COMES AN ANGRY SHOT
YOU MISSED'
OVER THE SIDE, JEFF'
BAM
PSST


BAH!... THE WHOLE TRUTH WILL SOON BE OUT! WE MUST PROTECT OURSELVES, JOAKS QUICKLY-- OPEN ONE OF THE ANIMAL CRATES'


SOME TIME LATER, IN THE HALL OF JUSTICE...
YOU DARE RETURN HERE AFTER YOUR ESCAPE, AND ACCUSE PROFESSOR HAZZARD OF STEALING THE VELIUM?
YOU'VE GOT TO BELEVE US YOUR HONOR'



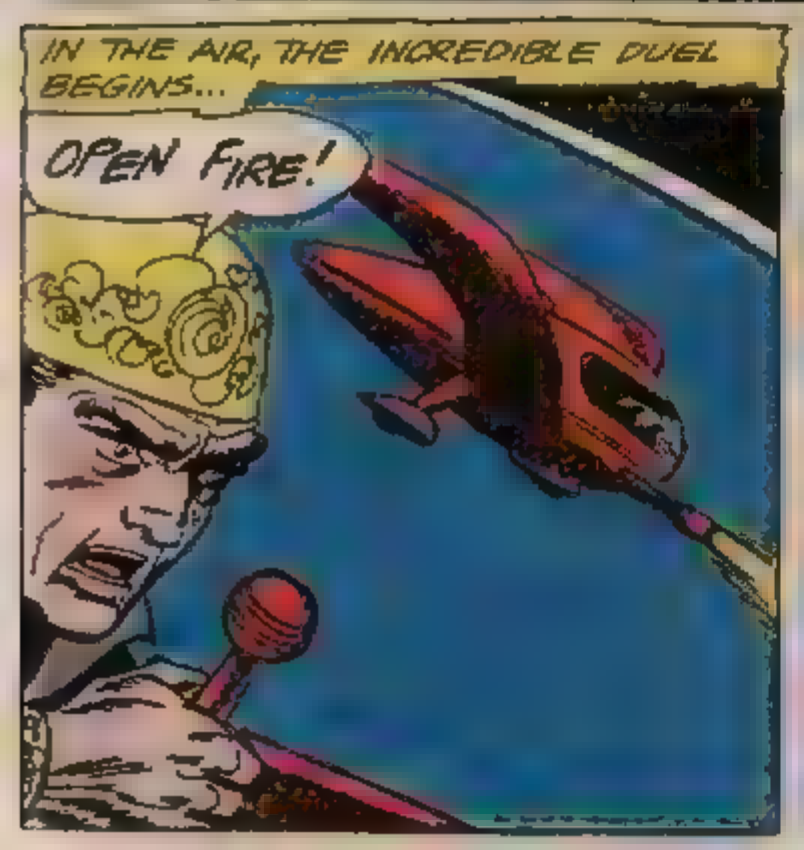


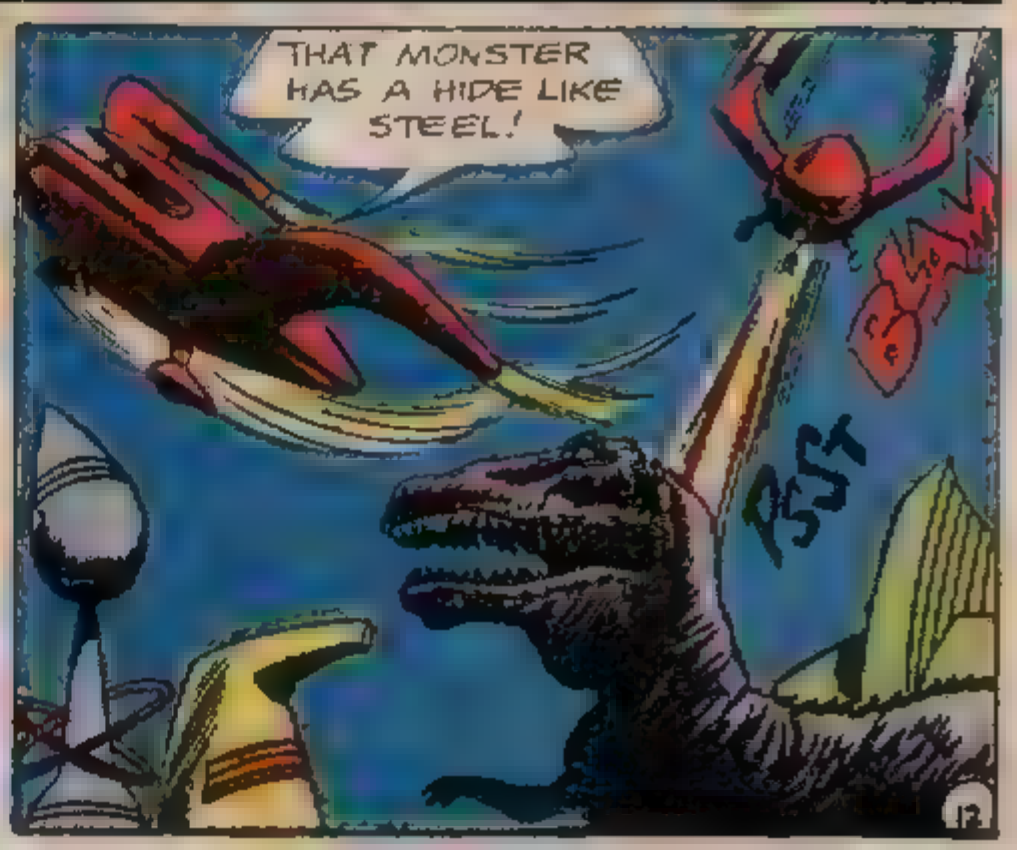
OUTSIDE, GRIM PANIC HAS STRUCK THE POPULACE...

CRASH

Y-YOU WERE RIGHT... HAZZARD MUST HAVE LOST HIS MIND!

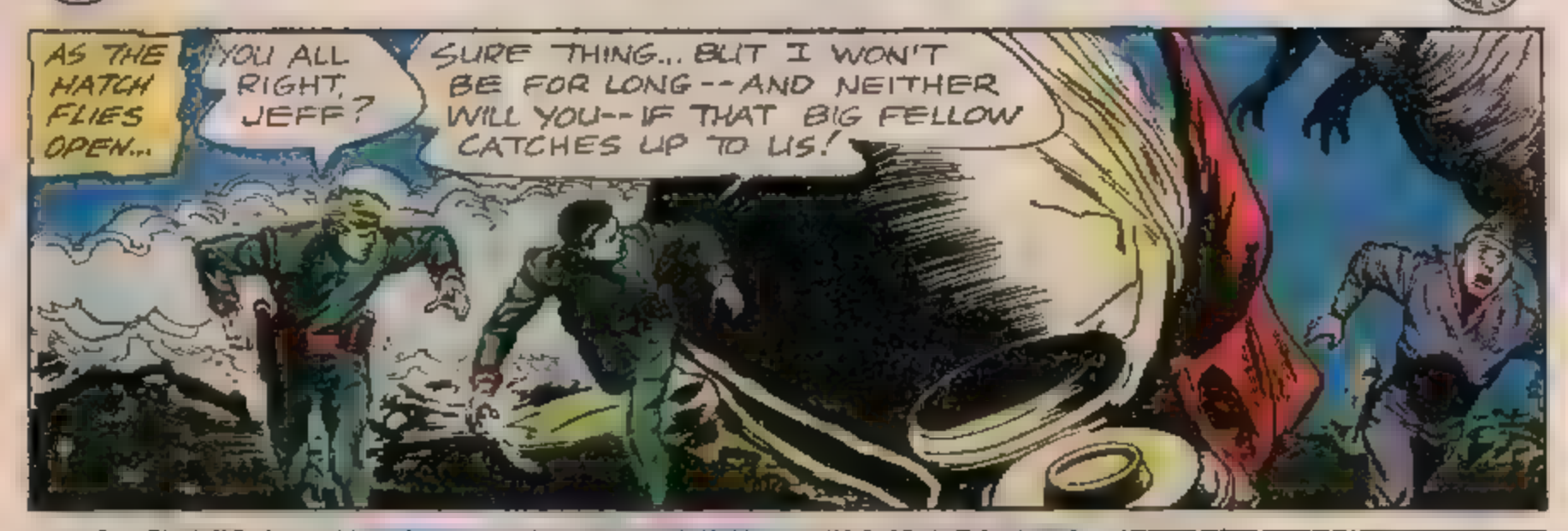
LOOK, RIP-- AIRBORNE POLICE CARS ARE HEADING TOWARD IT!



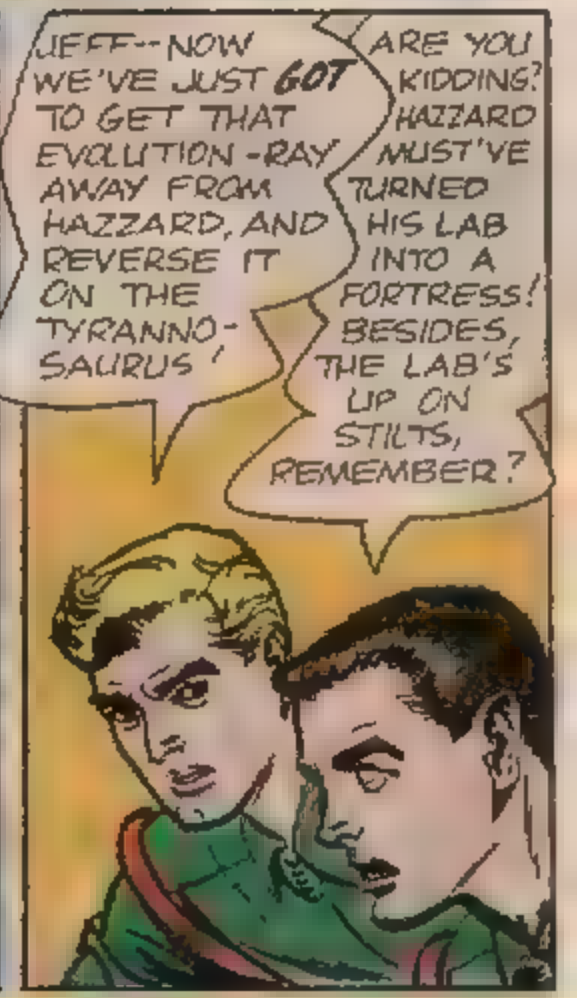


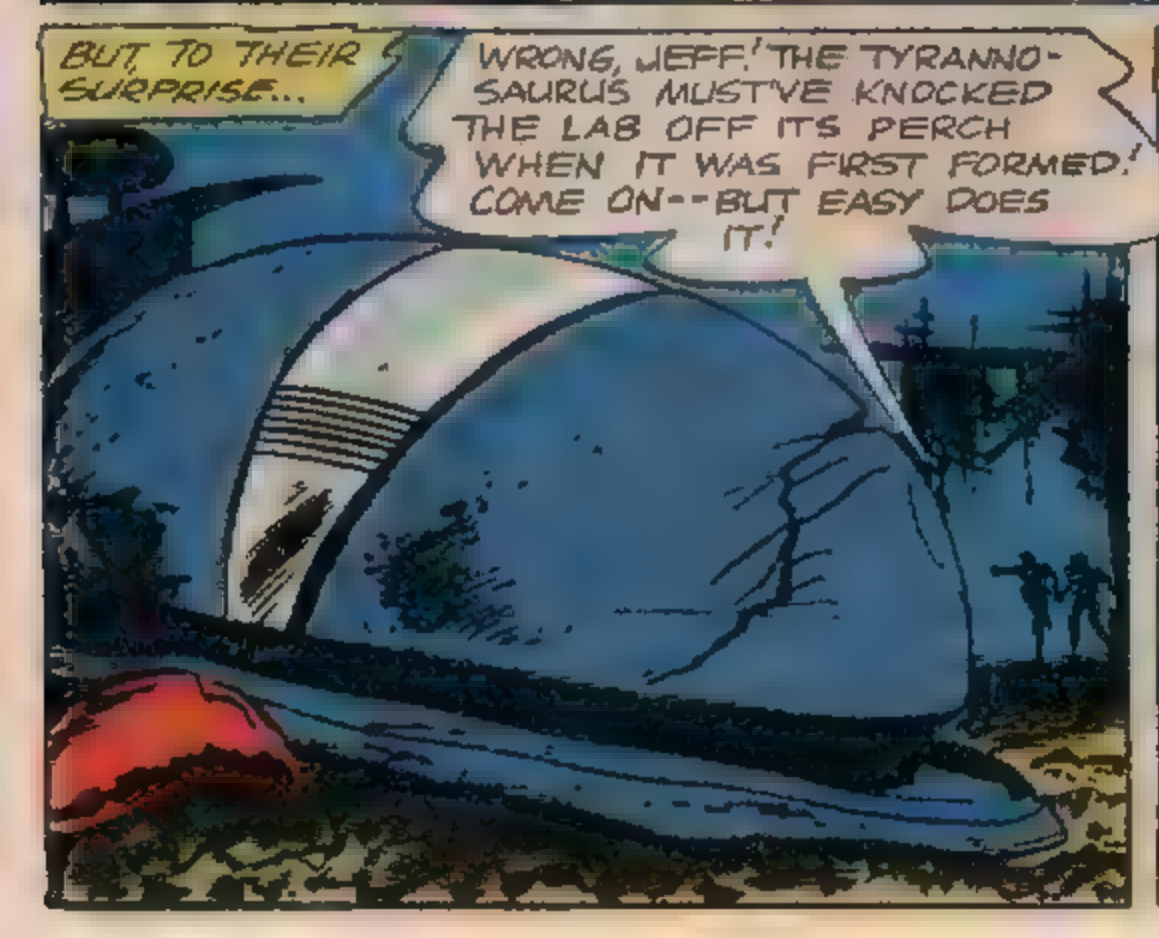
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

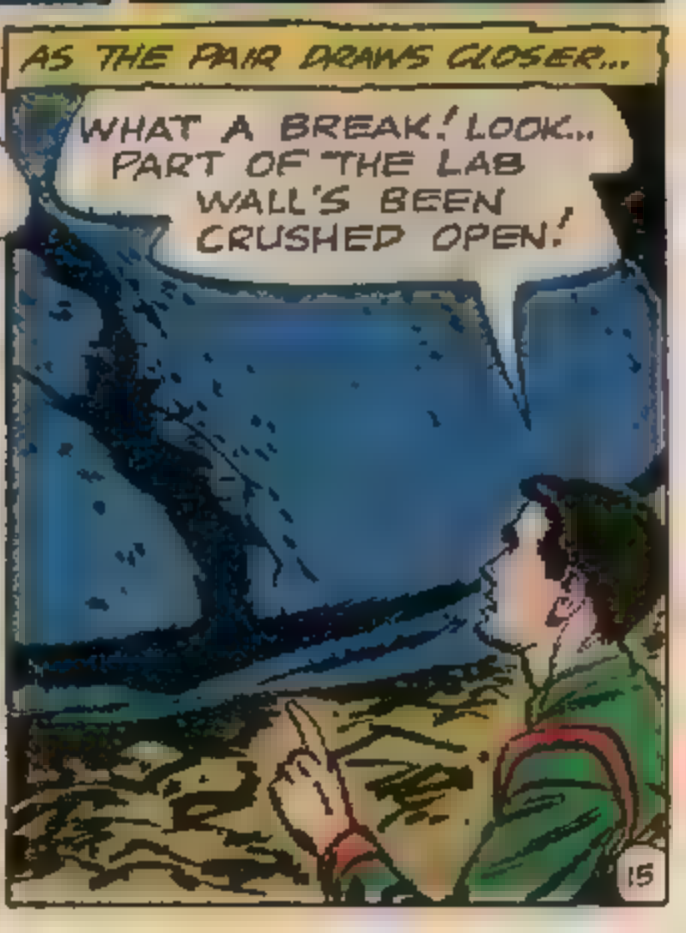
ENRAGED BY THE HUMAN CLINGING TO ITS BACK, THE FURIOUS BEAST FORGETS ITS FORMER TARGET, AS...
Chapter 2 CONTINUED...
RIDE 'EM, COWBOY!
AT LENGTH...
JEFF? RIP HERE! LOOKS LIKE THE TOWER'S BEEN EVACUATED-- SO YOU CAN PICK ME UP NOW!
WITHIN SECONDS...
OKAY!... PULL IT UP!
BUT, NEXT INSTANT, AN IRONIC TWIST OF FATE...
CRUNCH
CRASH


AS THE HATCH FLIES OPEN...
YOU ALL RIGHT, JEFF?
SURE THING... BUT I WON'T BE FOR LONG--AND NEITHER WILL YOU--IF THAT BIG FELLOW CATCHES UP TO US!

OH, GREAT! THE BEASTS CONVERTING THE SPHERE INTO SCRAP IRON!
JUST BE THANKFUL YOU'RE NOT STILL INSIDE IT, PAL!


JEFF--NOW WE'VE JUST GOT TO GET THAT EVOLUTION-RAY AWAY FROM HAZZARD, AND REVERSE IT ON THE TYRANNOSAURUS!
ARE YOU KIDDING? HAZZARD MUST'VE TURNED HIS LAB INTO A FORTRESS! BESIDES, THE LAB'S UP ON STILTS, REMEMBER?


BUT, TO THEIR SURPRISE...
WRONG, JEFF! THE TYRANNOSAURUS MUST'VE KNOCKED THE LAB OFF ITS PERCH WHEN IT WAS FIRST FORMED! COME ON--BUT EASY DOES IT!


AS THE PAIR DRAWS CLOSER...
WHAT A BREAK! LOOK... PART OF THE LAB WALL'S BEEN CRUSHED OPEN!

SUDDENLY...

RIP! A BEAM-- HITTING ME!

YES, MY FRIEND... THE EVOLUTION-RAY BEAM!

AND IN THE NEXT UNFORGETTABLE MINUTES...

GREAT THUNDER! JEFF'S EVOLVING INTO A-- A CAVEMAN!

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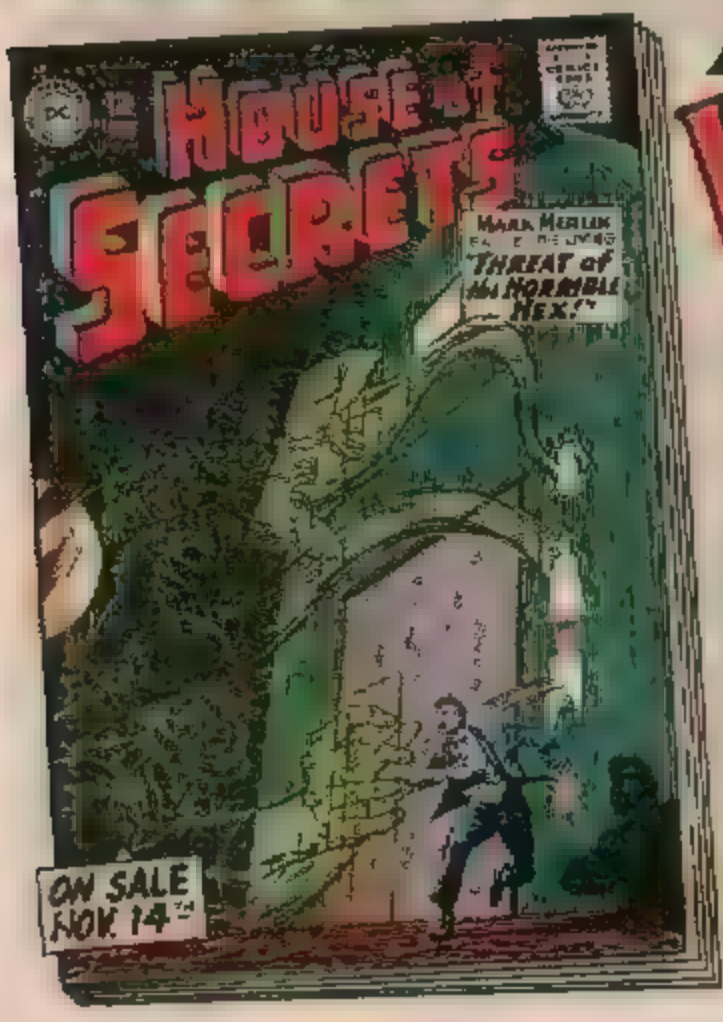
CONTINUED IN CHAPTER 3



For The VERY BEST

in COMICS READING

THE CHIPS ARE DOWN NOW, AS THE BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL APPROACHES THE EXCITING CLIMAX! BUT FOR THE **TIME MASTER**, IT IS LITERALLY A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH, AS HE PONDERS..

CHAPTER 3

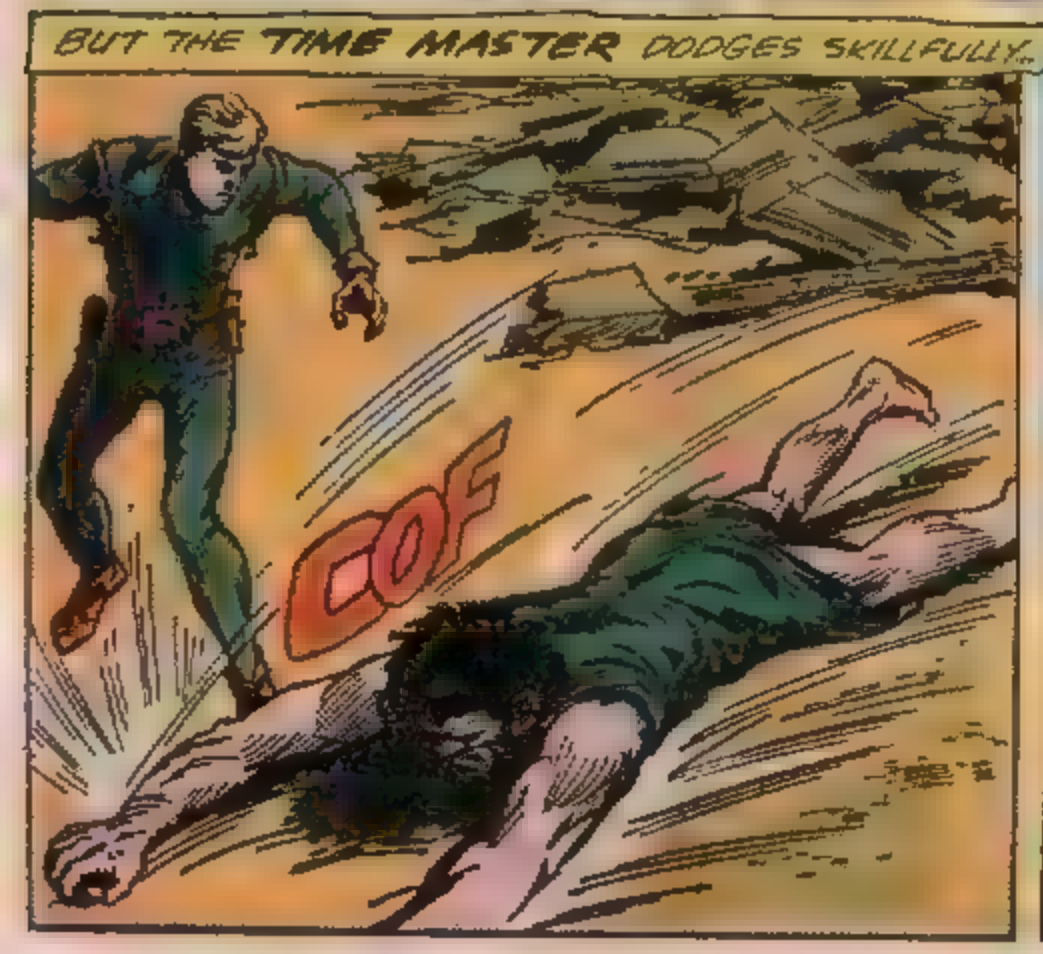
RIP HUNTER'S FATAL DECISION

JEFF'S TRANSFORMATION COMPLETED, THE "CAVEMAN" SNARLS AT THE STRANGER BEFORE HIM...
GREAT THUNDER! HE LOOKS ON ME AS AN ENEMY!
NO, JEFF! TRY TO UNDERSTAND!

GRRGG
HA, HA! TRY AND REASON WITH A CAVEMAN! YOUR BRUTISH FRIEND WILL FINISH YOU OFF FOR ME!

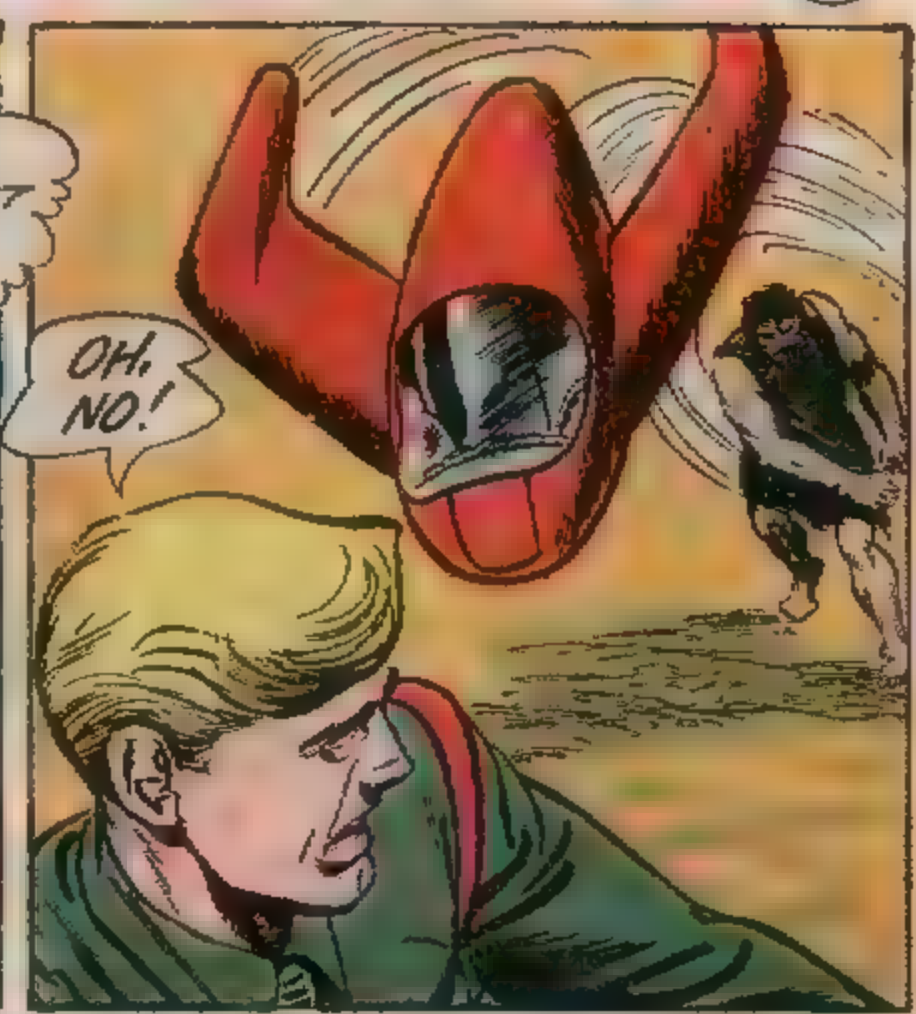
KEEP AWAY, JEFF... PLEASE-- KEEP AWAY!

ANGRILY, THE PREHISTORIC MAN LEAPS AT HIS QUARRY...


BUT THE TIME MASTER DODGES SKILLFULLY...
COF

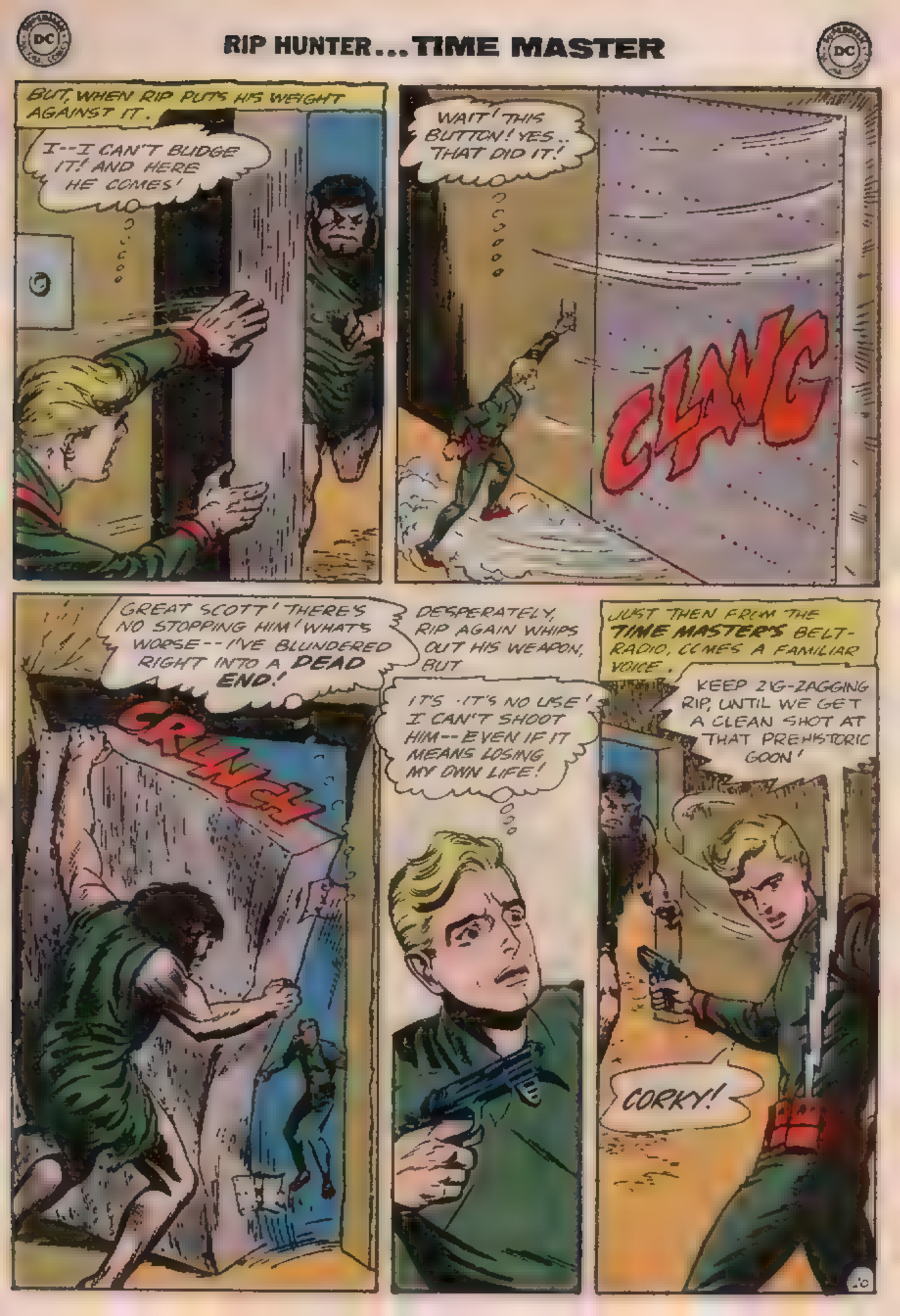
H-HE'S DEVELOPED AN UNREASONING HATRED FOR ME! MUST GET AWAY!

BUT, AS RIP BEATS A HASTY RETREAT..
HE'S LIFTING UP THAT AIR CAB AS IF IT WERE A TOY! WELL, AT LEAST HE SEEMS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME!


OH, NO!

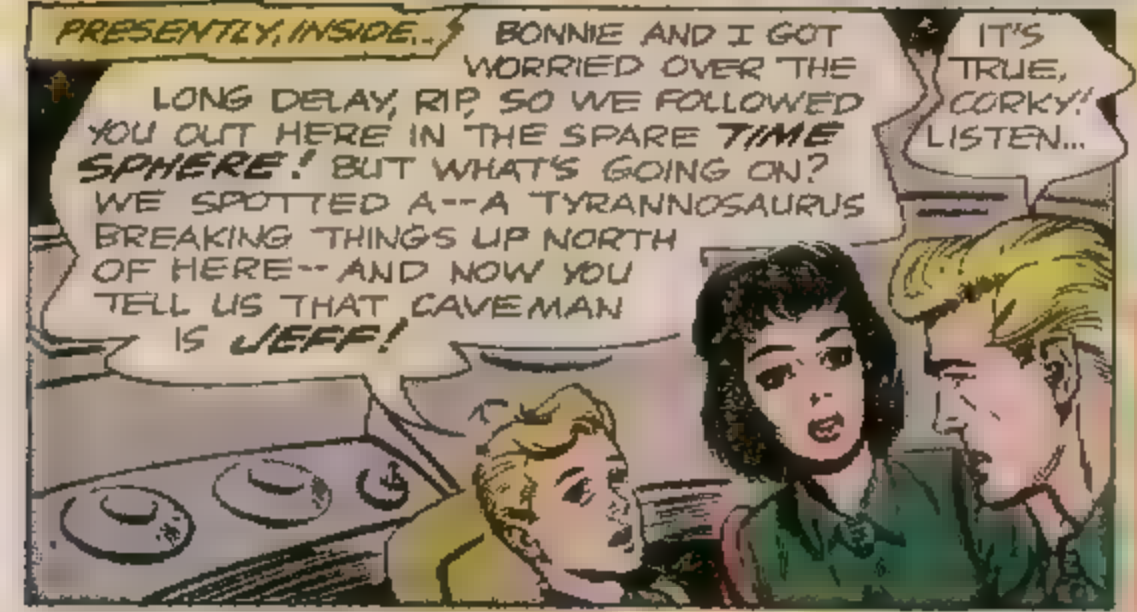
CRASH

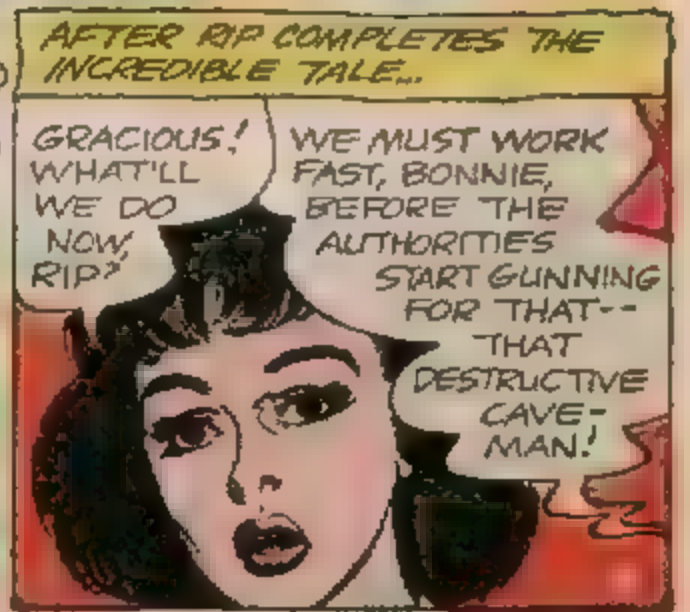
M-MAYBE I CAN SCARE HIM OFF WITH A GUNSHOT!
BAM
BUT...
NOTHING SEEMS TO FRIGHTEN HIM! I'LL HAVE TO GET THIS STEEL GATE BETWEEN US!


BUT, WHEN RIP PUTS HIS WEIGHT AGAINST IT.
I--I CAN'T BUDGE IT! AND HERE HE COMES!
WAIT! THIS BUTTON! YES.. THAT DID IT!
CLANG
GREAT SCOTT! THERE'S NO STOPPING HIM! WHAT'S WORSE--I'VE BLUNDERED RIGHT INTO A DEAD END!
CRUNCH
DESPERATELY, RIP AGAIN WHIPS OUT HIS WEAPON, BUT
IT'S -IT'S NO USE! I CAN'T SHOOT HIM--EVEN IF IT MEANS LOSING MY OWN LIFE!
JUST THEN FROM THE TIME MASTER'S BELT-RADIO, COMES A FAMILIAR VOICE.
KEEP ZIG-ZAGGING RIP, UNTIL WE GET A CLEAN SHOT AT THAT PREHISTORIC GOON!
CORKY!

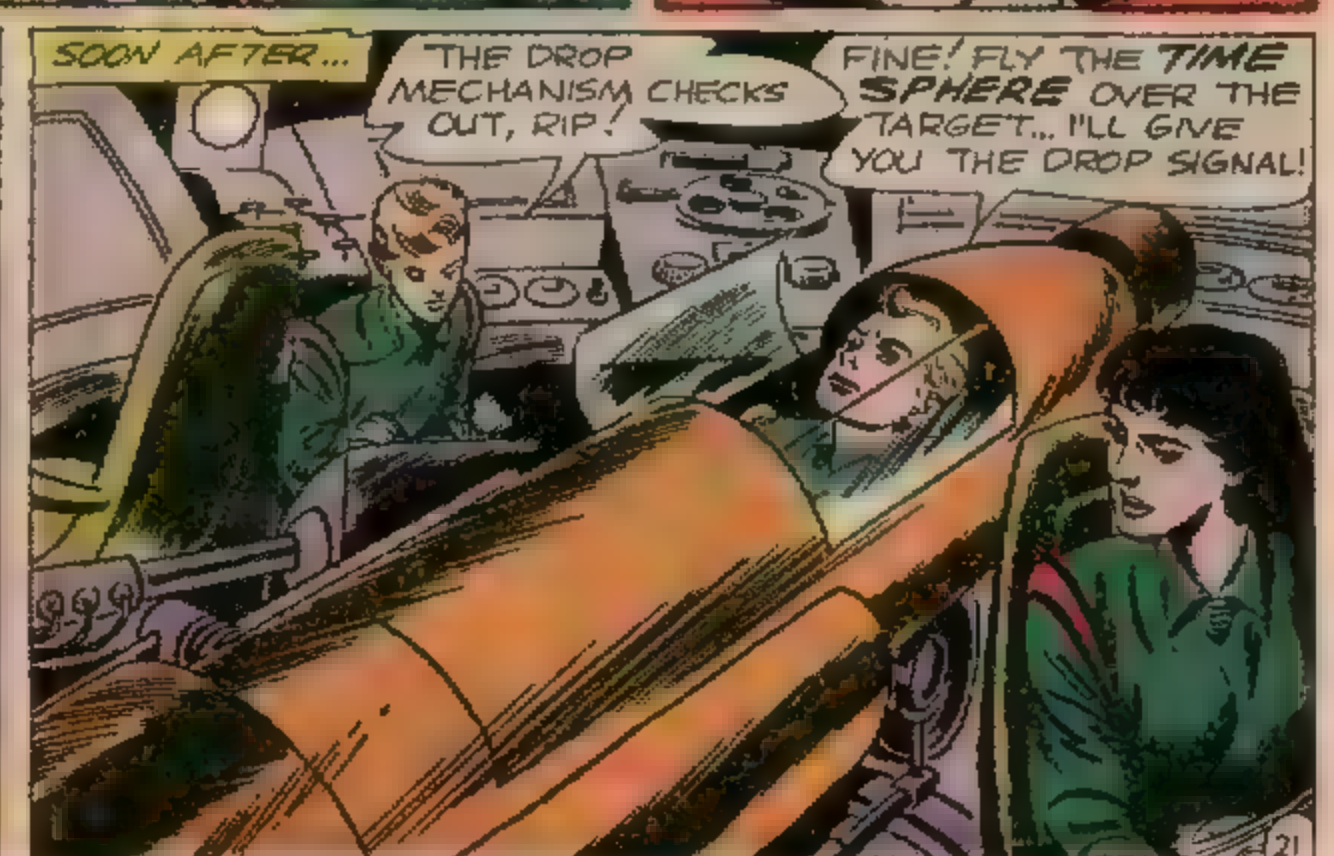
NO, NO, CORKY--DON'T OPEN FIRE! TH-THAT CAVE-MAN IS--JEFF! JUST GET ME OUT OF HERE!

NEXT MOMENT, A LADDER DESCENDS, AND..
WHEW! NOT A SECOND TOO SOON!


PRESENTLY, INSIDE..
BONNIE AND I GOT WORRIED OVER THE LONG DELAY, RIP, SO WE FOLLOWED YOU OUT HERE IN THE SPARE TIME SPHERE! BUT WHAT'S GOING ON? WE SPOTTED A--A TYRANNOSAURUS BREAKING THINGS UP NORTH OF HERE--AND NOW YOU TELL US THAT CAVEMAN IS JEFF!
IT'S TRUE, CORKY! LISTEN...


AFTER RIP COMPLETES THE INCREDIBLE TALE..
GRACIOUS! WHAT'LL WE DO NOW, RIP?
WE MUST WORK FAST, BONNIE, BEFORE THE AUTHORITIES START GUNNING FOR THAT--THAT DESTRUCTIVE CAVE-MAN!

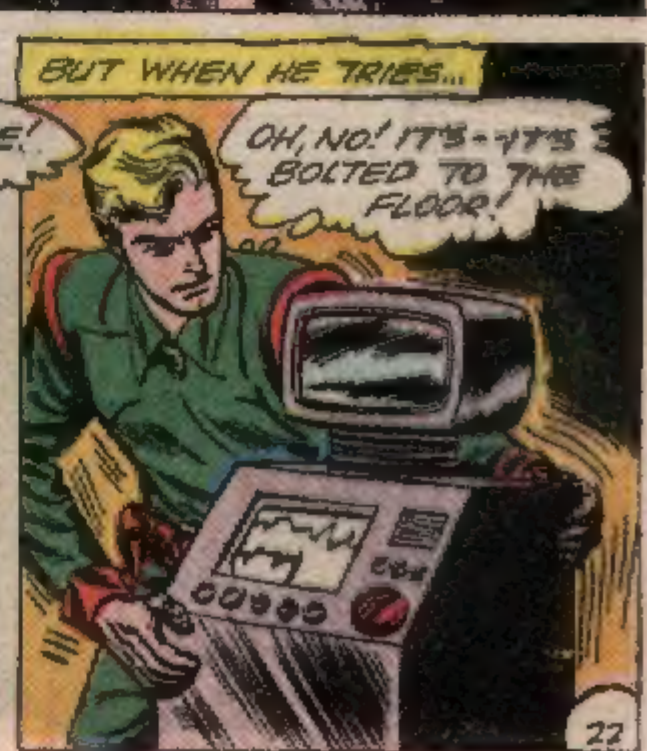
I'VE GOT TO MAKE ONE MORE TRY FOR THAT EVOLUTION-RAY! BONNIE, GET A TORPEDO SHELL READY--AND LISTEN CAREFULLY!


SOON AFTER...
THE DROP MECHANISM CHECKS OUT, RIP!
FINE! FLY THE TIME SPHERE OVER THE TARGET... I'LL GIVE YOU THE DROP SIGNAL!

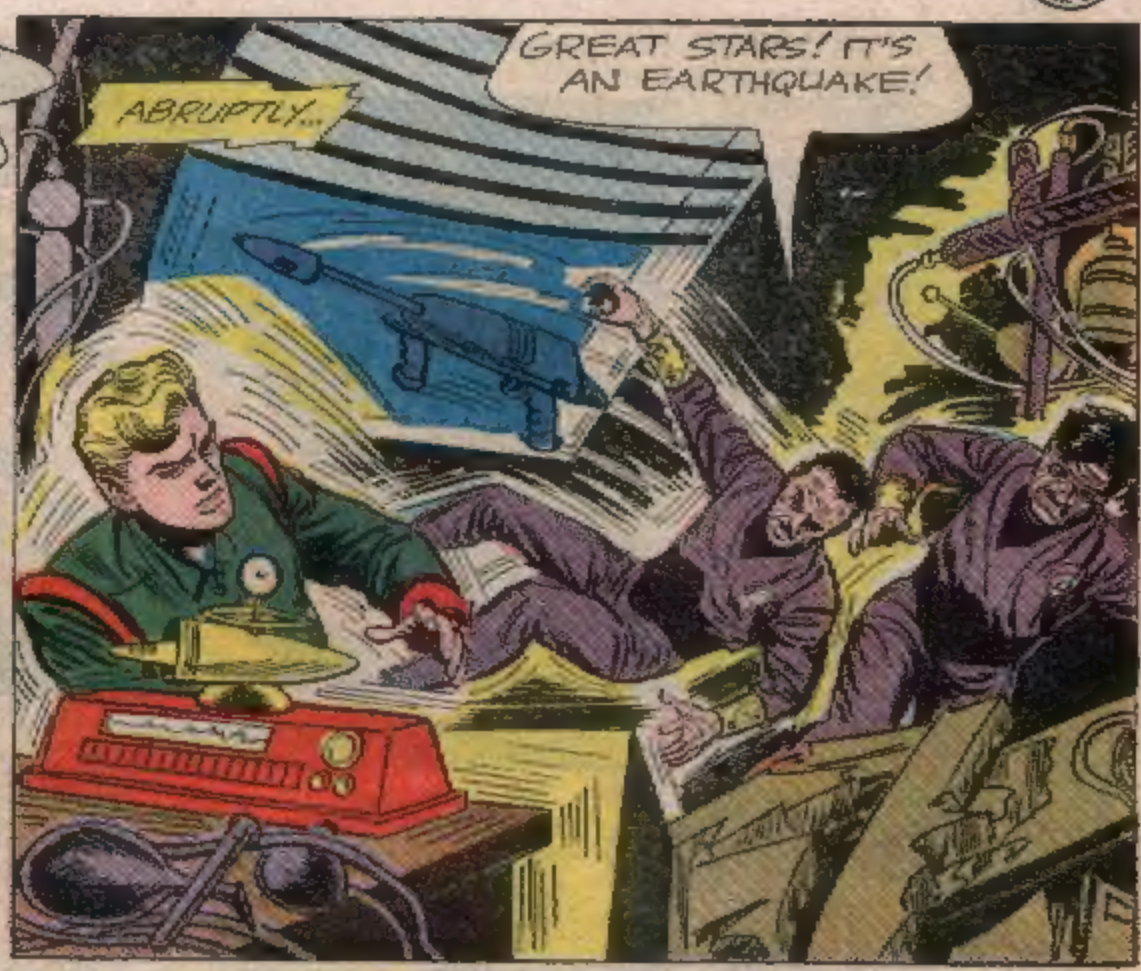
SHORTLY, OVER PROFESSOR HAZZARD'S LABORATORY...
THE BOMB BAY DOORS SWIVEL OPEN!

NEXT INSTANT...
WHOOSH
THE MANNED TORPEDO CRASHES THROUGH THE ROOF, GOES SMASHING INTO THE LABORATORY...
WHRAMM

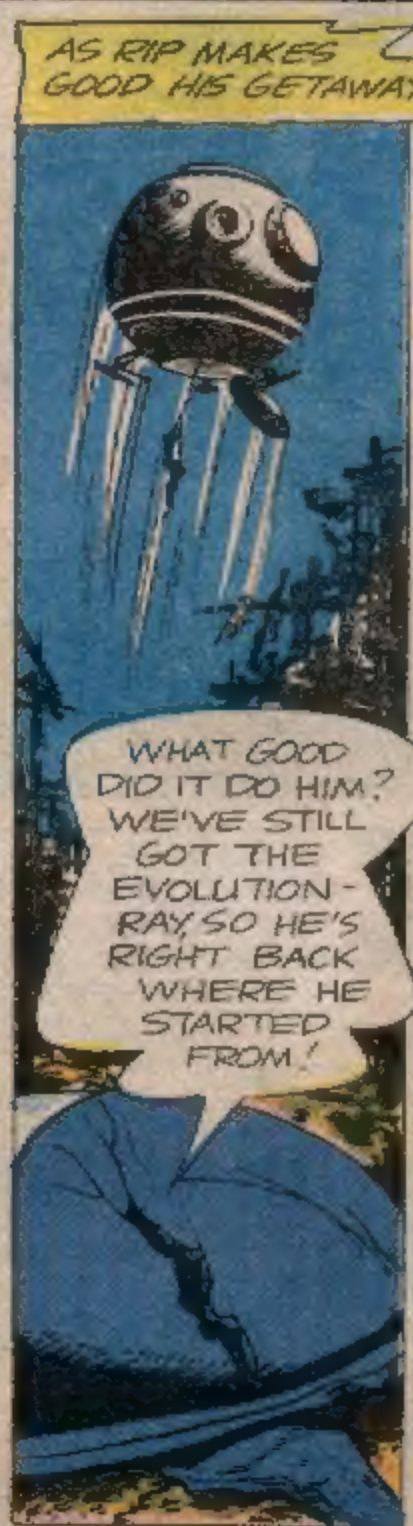
IT WORKED! I CAUGHT THEM COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE! NOW TO GRAB THE EVOLUTION-RAY MACHINE, AND BEAT IT!


BUT WHEN HE TRIES...
OH, NO! IT'S--IT'S BOLTED TO THE FLOOR!

YOU PEST! I'LL GET RID OF YOU FOR GOOD THIS TIME!
CORKY! RED ALERT!


ABRUPTLY...
GREAT STARS! IT'S AN EARTHQUAKE!

NO, IT ISN'T! IT'S THE TIME SPHERE-- GIVING YOU A GOOD ROCKING


AS RIP MAKES GOOD HIS GETAWAY...
BUT SOME MINUTES LATER...
WHAT GOOD DID IT DO HIM? WE'VE STILL GOT THE EVOLUTION-RAY, SO HE'S RIGHT BACK WHERE HE STARTED FROM!

HAZZARD-- LOOK! THAT TYRANNOSAURUS-- IT'S HEADING THIS WAY!

IN THE NEXT STARTLING MOMENT...
YAAAH! IT'S RIPPING THE LAB ROOF OFF!

AND, TO ADD TO THE TERROR...
TH-THE CAVEMAN!

USE YOUR WEAPON, YOU FOOL!

BUT IN THAT SAME INSTANT...
OH, NO!... TH-THEY SEEM TO BE ACTING INTELLIGENTLY!

RIGHT, JOAKS--THANKS TO THE PROFESSOR'S MIND-CONTROL DEVICE... THE SAME GADGET HE USED ON ME!
B-BUT... HOW DID YOU GET HOLD OF THAT?

For The VERY BEST

in COMICS READING